

In view of that, will the Government consider the question of giving some interim relife without waiting for any interim report from the Commission ?

MR. SPEAKER : That question has already been asked.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : The hon. Minister answered the question whether interim relief will be part of the award. That report may come after two years. The hon. Member is asking about immediate relief.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : May I make myself quite clear ? I have not stated that it will be part of the Award. I said that it will be a point in the terms of reference.

SHRI NAMBIAR : Irrespective of the Interim and final report whether some immediate relief will be given is the question.

MR. SPEAKER : That has been asked and replied to a number of times.

श्री हुकम चन्द कल्लवाय : केन्द्रीय सरकार के मातहत बहुत से ऐसे उद्योग चल रहे हैं जिन में काफी संख्या में कैंजुअल लेबर काम करती है। क्या सरकार उन के बारे में भी विचार करने को तीसरे वेतन आयोग से कहेंगी क्योंकि उनकी बहुत गिरी हुई हालत है ?

श्री प्र० चं० सेठी : जो डिपार्टमेंटल अन्डर-टेकिंग्स के मुलाजिम हैं, जैसे डिफेंस के लोग हैं, उनका समावेश तो होगा, लेकिन जो पब्लिक अन्डरटेकिंग्स हैं, जिन के डिफरेंट वेज बोर्ड्स हैं, उनका नहीं होगा। रेलवे के लिये यही पे कमीशन होगा।

SHRI S. KUNDU : As the terms of reference of the Pay Commission are, it will concern only the Government employees. There are many people employed by the Government who are not considered as Government employees, like the casual labourers. There are five lakhs casual labourers in the Railways who are getting less than Rs. 60 a month as wages. I want to know whether this Pay Commission will determine their wages also and whether benefit will accrue to them also out of this Pay Commission.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : Casual Labour would not be a part of the terms of the Pay Commission.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the hon. Minister tell us whether in the Pay Commission he is going to include any employees' representative ?

MR. SPEAKER : That was asked already.

SHRI K. N. PANDEY : I want to know whether the hon. Minister is going to get any observation from the Pay Commission about the desirability of paying any interim relief or whether he is asking the Pay Commission to recommend as to what should be the quantum or nature of relief that should be given to the employees.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : When I say that this will be point of reference, it only means that if the Pay Commission considers it desirable and necessary that interim relief has to be given, it is certainly welcome to give its recommendation.

Nationalisation of Drug Industry

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*3. SHRI M. H. GOWDA :
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :
SHRI HEM BARUA :
SHRI P. GOPALAN :
SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to nationalise the Drug Industry ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI M. H. GOWDA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether drugs that are supplied to the poor are sold at a high prices and whether the Minister is going to nationalise the drug industry.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : Concerning nationalisation, I have said, "No" in my reply to the main question. Concerning prices of drugs, it is true that some of the basic drugs, which are not included in the pharmacopoeial formulations, are being sold at a high price.

SHRI NAMBIAR : How to bring down the prices, is the question. We know that they are being sold at high prices.

SHRI A. SHREEDHARAN : What steps have Government taken to bring down the prices ?

SHRI HEM BARUA : In view of the fact that the prices of drugs manufactured in this country are very exorbitant and beyond the reach of the common man to buy them—at times, the prices are fifty times more than the manufacturing cost—may I know whether the hon. Minister, sometime back, met certain representatives of the manufacturers, had a discussion with them and went before them on bended knees to curb the prices and, if so, what is the response of manufacturers concerned or does he propose to continue to surrender to the private sector all the time at the cost of the people of this country ?

श्री. जार्ज करनेन्डीज : क्या पब्लिक सेक्टर नहीं लूट रहा है ? क्या हिन्दुस्तान एन्टी-बायोटेक्स के दाम कुछ कम हैं ? वही दाम हैं ।

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : About the high prices of drugs, probably, the reference is to a news-item that appeared in the Press and, as I said in the beginning, the prices of certain drugs which are being sold are on the high side.....

SHRI HEM BARUA : Fifty times more than the manufacturing cost.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : It is your estimate. As I said, it is on the high side. Concerning this problem, the Tariff Commission was appointed and, sometime back, they submitted the report to the Government which is under consideration. The decision of the Government with regard to the recommendations of the Tariff Commission is being formulated which will soon be placed

before the Cabinet and it will be announced. The efforts are being made to reduce prices. We met the industry and the trade just for the purpose of understanding the points of view of the industry and the trade. The Government is trying there level best to evolve some formula so that the prices are brought down and are within the easy reach of the common people.

SHRI HEM BARUA : The hon. Minister has admitted that the prices are exorbitant. We are interested in knowing what steps he has taken to curb the prices.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : The highest return on capital employed is earned by the drug companies. The return amounts to about 25 per cent to 40 per cent of the capital employed by the drug concerns. In view of this fact, would the Government give an ultimatum to the drug companies that within a period of, say, 15 days or a month, either they bring down the prices or the Government will take over the industry. Besides, I would like to know what has been the report of the Tariff Commission on this issue.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : As I said, the Tariff Commission went into about 18 basic drugs and about 39 formulations. They have made the recommendations which are under examination of the Government and the decision of the Government will be formulated which will be submitted to the Cabinet and then the decision will be announced. As regards the level of prices, as I said in the beginning, the prices are very high.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : What are you doing about it? You are not doing anything. *(Interruption)*

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Let him complete his answer

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : About the prices of drugs manufactured in public sector undertakings also, they are on the high side. We are taking steps to bring down the prices so that they become within the easy reach of the common people.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : What about the ultimatum given to the private companies to bring down the prices within a certain period ?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : We met the trade and the industry just for the purpose of bringing down the prices within the shortest possible time.

श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज : हिंदुस्तान एंटी-बायाटिक्स के दाम क्यों ज्यादा हैं? वह भी मुनाफाखोर हैं!

श्री रवि राय : उसकी मालिक तो सरकार है। वह क्या कर रही है।

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Has an ultimatum been given to the private companies?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : It is not a question of giving any ultimatum. We are taking steps to bring down the prices which will be within the easy reach of the common people.

Mobile Hospitals

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*4. SHRI SATYA NARAIN SINGH;
SHRI NAMBIAR :
SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up mobile hospitals in Medical Colleges in every State ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when the decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

A pilot scheme for attaching mobile training-cum-service units with 50 hospitals to selected Medical Colleges is under

the consideration of the Government. At a later stage, depending upon the availability of funds, the scheme may be extended to other Medical Colleges.

The mobile training-cum-service units are intended to serve the twin purpose of imparting training to final year medical students and interns in a rural area and providing facilities of medical care, public health and family planning to the rural population. Each unit will be fully equipped to function as a mobile hospital and operate in different rural localities for specified periods. About 15-20 final year medical students and 10-12 interns will stay in each camp with their teachers and render voluntary service. Some extra staff will also be attached to each unit and the medical and public health facilities available locally and under various national health programmes will be placed at its disposal.

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि गांवों में बहुत से ऐसे इलाके हैं जो पिछड़े हुए हैं जहाँ अस्पतालों की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है और वहाँ की जनता को बड़ी कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता है तो उन क्षेत्रों का विशेष ध्यान इस योजना में रखा जायगा ?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : Yes, Sir.

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसके जरिये से जो दवा बांटी जायगी उस में मुतवातिर दंग से दवा मरीजों को मिल सके, इसकी व्यवस्था की जायगी ?

श्री के० के० शाह : मोबाइल अस्पताल में जिस मरीज की दवा होगी उस दवा का इंतजाम हम करेंगे।

SHRI NAMBIAR : May I know, Sir, whether these mobile hospitals will visit rural areas and villages and stay there to give examination to the patients and also treatment and whether these patients will be brought to the cities if advanced treatment