

*[English]*

It is in accordance with the operational requirements and there are no specific guidelines as such.

*[Translation]*

Survey is conducted and wherever it is found necessary or where there is a possibility of increase in traffic or where the line is more busy, we undertake electrification and laying of double line programme there.

SHRI RAM SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Double line exists between Saharanpur and Tapri and Delhi to Ghaziabad. If there is double line between Delhi and Saharanpur, then there will be no need to stop the goods or passenger trains at Ghaziabad to receive the incoming trains and release the outgoing trains. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether incomplete double line does not cause inconvenience in transportation of goods and passenger traffic?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: No, Sir, there is no inconvenience.

*[English]*

### **Deaths due to consumption of spurious drugs**

\*971. SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons died due to consumption of spurious drugs in the country during 1986-1987, State-wise; and

(b) the names of such drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b). According to information available, 14 deaths took place at J.J. Hospital, Bombay in January-February, 1986 due to administration of adulterated Glycerol (Glycerine).

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister is very intelligent and also my friend. But I challenge the figures given by her. You know that children are dying in the villages, in cities and in hospitals in every corner of the country due to spurious medicines and spurious polio vaccine. Therefore, I want to know whether she proposes to conduct a survey and intimate the results thereof. May I know the action being taken by the Drug Controller in this connection. May I also know about the steps being taken by the Drug Controller to check the mushroom growth of spurious drugs manufacturing companies in whole of the country, especially in Bombay, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar?

*[English]*

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Most humbly I would like to submit to the Hon. Member that....

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA: I have put my question in Hindi and I want reply to be given in Hindi.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not prevent English-speaking Minister to reply in Hindi...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA: The Hon. Minister knows Hindi and I request that she may reply in Hindi.

*[English]*

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: The Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 regulates the import into and manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs in the country. Under this Act, the Central Government is responsible through the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation for controlling the quality of imported drugs as well as the drugs manufactured in the country by laying down certain regulatory measures and standards of the drugs and importing new

drugs also at the same time. The State Governments are responsible for exercising control over drugs manufactured, sold and distributed in the country through their State Drugs Control Organisations.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I have asked something else and the reply is something else. I have challenged the figures given by her. She will come to know the truth if a survey is carried out. There are sensational news almost every day in newspapers. The hon. Minister has stated that 14 deaths took place at J.J. Hospital, Bombay due to administration of adulterated glycerine. The commission constituted under the chairmanship of Justice Lentin has, after very careful study of the matter, offered many suggestions. The Commission is of the view that the drug companies situated in villages and in other far-flung areas have no proper infrastructure. Their medicines should not be purchased. There are certain companies whose products are marketed without their being tested in the laboratories. What steps will be taken to check the inflow of such medicines into the market. Would you take some concrete steps to check the inflow of spurious drugs into the market? Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know, the General Secretary of All India Congress Committee died. It is still a controversial matter that the injection administered to him was an adulterated one.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question.

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA: When a great man like him can meet his end like this, then there is no safety for anybody in the country. Therefore, take point seriously and make sincere efforts to prevent the sale of spurious drugs in the market.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: The hon. Member has made certain observations while expressing her views regarding spurious drugs.

MR. SPEAKER: You have replied to one of the observations.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: I would like to submit that Government pays attention from time to time to such things like spurious drugs and issues instructions also. As regards Lentin Commission, I would like to submit respectfully that it is a state subject. I feel that we should not discuss it in this House.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, ask him to say something about Pannicker. The Minister has made a statement. The hon. Minister should say something about him.

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA: Through the state Government...

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, she has already told; did you not hear that?

[*English*]

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Sir, last Session I had asked a similar question and it was about Coldrin. A wrong advertisement about its effect was given which led a man almost lose his son. It is not only a question of spurious drugs but sub-standard drugs also. The drug authorities are expected to send their Inspectors to every pharmaceutical concern to see for each shift but it has been observed that though these people are expected to go there, they do not go. May I know from the hon. Minister what are you going to do not only about spurious drugs but also sub-standard drugs and of the drugs which are given wrong publicity without looking into the counter-effects of it. How are you going to punish them?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Spurious drug manufacturers are worst even than murderers. They should be given the same punishments as is given to a murderer.

[*English*]

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, sub-standard drugs are those drugs which do not conform to the standards laid down for such drugs. The problem of sub-standard drugs is confined to licensed

drug manufacturers only. The manufacturing and sale of spurious drugs is a clandestine activity like circulation of fake currency notes indulged in by anti-social and unscrupulous elements. As you have also mentioned this activity is carried out generally by unlicensed manufacturers although licensed manufacturers also involve themselves in such activities.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that while replying to my unstarred question on 28th of last month you have already admitted that there are 22 hospitals which have returned the drugs to the Central Medical Depot at Bombay under the Union Health Ministry on the ground that some of the drugs were sub-standard drugs, some of them were sent without indent and some of them were sent in such a way that the date of expiry was wrong. Having admitted yourself in the case of 22 hospitals that the drugs were returned, will you take concrete steps to find out—since you have already got the audit report with you—as to who are responsible for these discrepancies and aberrations and take a firm stand that such things will be avoided in future: In the same background though it is a State matter as far as Lentin Commission Report is concerned will you use your good offices with the State Government to see that recommendations of the Lentin Commission are also effectively implemented by the State Government? These are two aspects of the same question.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Whatever has just now been mentioned by Prof. Dandavate I can assure the House that whatever is possible from my Ministry I will take very strong action. I will try to implement those audit reports.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The drugs were returned by 22 hospitals. Will you take firm steps to find out who are responsible for the discrepancies and aberrations?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Yes, definitely whatever you are referring to just

now I will see that some action should be taken against that.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are thankful to you for extending the help whenever we need it. You ask the Govt. to make a statement. But the statement given by the Minister of Health yesterday has pained us. Such statement should not have been given about Shri Pannicker in the House. It has created confusion in our minds. According to the statement he was suffering from Tuberculosis. We want to know whether the statement is correct or he died due to administration of sub-standard injection. The matter should be considered seriously. What is there in the post-mortem report. The matter is not confined merely to an M.P., it can happen to anybody. The problem cannot be solved unless firm steps are taken in this regard. The hon. Minister should give here the original statement and reveal the facts.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the issues raised by the hon. Member and also give due respect to the sentiments of other hon. Members. Shri Pannicker was as dear to us as he was to them, but I think this issue should not be associated with the original Question. A separate notice is required for this...(Interruptions)

#### Unauthorised porters on Railway Stations

\*973. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether unauthorised porters in red and green shirts are found to be loading and unloading the baggage of passengers at Delhi and other railway stations in the country;

(b) whether there have been complaints regarding these persons indulging in illegal activities like occupying the seats in trains, stealing the baggage of passengers and pick-pocketing etc;