

[English]

SHRI K. S. RAO: Sir, housing is realised as one of the important areas which can generate employment in a big way. Housing also is an area where we do not require any foreign technology or foreign technologists or foreign exchange. The hon. Minister has been promising for the last four years that they will construct a good number of houses but nothing has come forward, possibly because they do not have the money. That is what they reply every time. I wish to know that keeping in view all these things and the emphasis laid down by the Government itself in this year's Budget, whether she will amend the Urban Land ceiling Act and allow the houses to come up in a big way, not only in Maharashtra but also in various parts of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what she has already said.

SHRI K. S. RAO: I mean immediately, Sir.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Sir, I have already said that it is under consideration of the Government and now after the establishment of the National Housing Bank and also keeping in view yesterday's Budget Speech of the finance Minister as well as the keenness of our Prime Minister regarding the housing sector, we hop that in the near future we will enhance the ceiling... (Interruptions). I have said that this Land Ceiling Act is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI MURLI DEORA: It has been under consideration for the last 3 years. Finalize it soon.

Factories Manufacturing Spurious Drugs and Cosmetics in Delhi

*106. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some factories manufacturing spurious drugs and cosmetics have been unearthed in Delhi during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of drugs and cosmetics manufactured there; and

(c) the action taken against the owners of these factories?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir. One factory manufacturing spurious drugs and cosmetics was unearthed in Delhi during the last one year.

(b) On 16.1.1989, Sh. Bishan Swarup Goel was found manufacturing for sale and distribution spurious drugs (Boroline and Clearasil) and spurious cosmetics (Cleartone, Fair & Lovely, Colgate Dental Cream and Vicco Turmeric Cream) at B-38/A, Kachchi Colony, Maujpur, Delhi.

(c) The Police have registered a case against the owner of the factory under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. He was subsequently arrested.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Sir, a burning problem of the country which we as a consumer are facing in our day to day life is the problem of adulteration, spurious drugs and sub-standard drugs. Luckily or unluckily, one medicine manufacturing company was unearthed by the police of the Delhi Administration. I say luckily or unluckily because about seventy per cent of the therapeutic companies are manufacturing and selling openly spurious drugs in the Indian markets and the Government is helpless. That is the reason why I have used the word luckily or unluckily. The very object of putting the question has never been that who was the person manufacturing because that information I was already having with me. The intention was that the person who has been arrested and

the person who was found involved in manufacturing spurious and sub-standard drugs might not have been carrying on this business all alone, but the police have arrested only one person. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to who were the parties from whom he used to purchase the raw materials, machines, packing materials, labels, etc. and who were the persons to whom he used to supply these spurious and sub-standard drugs in the Indian markets.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Sir, the contention of the hon. Member is that the problem of spurious and sub-standard drugs has to be taken note of seriously. The Government fully agrees with this Sir, the Drugs and Cosmetic Act has defined what is 'spurious' drugs and what is 'sub-standard' drugs. The implementation of this Act is with the respective Drug Controllers of the State Government and we have been constantly in touch with the State Governments. Every time the State Ministers meet to discuss the matter and decide that serious attention should be paid to this problem. But I am sorry to say that much remains to be done on the part of the State Governments. We have requested the State Government to have Special Cells in their Administration who can investigate these cases because this is a complicated matter. First we see the drugs, then the other Acts are involved, Police also come in, judicial aspect also comes in and if there is a Cell which consists of all these people, it would be much easier not only to detect it but to have them prosecuted properly. This particular case in Delhi is being investigated and I am sure that the point made by the hon. Member as to where they got the labels, etc. from will have to be dealt with.

Sir, another problem which is before us is that there are certain judgements of the court regarding the procedures to be followed which we are also studying and we will see that this matter is very seriously attended to. One thing that must be borne in mind is that the number of staff that is engaged in the drug inspection

department is very small. Unless that is vastly improved, because these facilities are also inadequate, inspection staff is also not as it should be, number of manufacturers is increasing every year, retail outlets are also increasing every year, we will not be in a position to do much in this. We are very much conscious of this fact and we will see that in consultation with the State Government some suitable machinery will be evolved so that this menace can be tackled with.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: The challenge, the capability and the experience of the hon. Minister cannot be defied or underestimated. The drugs purchased by the C.G.H.S. dispensaries particularly the drugs and the medicines purchased by the Ayurvedic Dispensaries, are also adulterated and are of sub-standard quality. Most of the drugs which are purchased by the C.G.H.S. dispensaries do not belong to any standard manufacturing company. May I know from the hon. Minister that while making purchases particularly for the C.G.H.S. authorities, the ayurvedic and allopathic medicines will definitely be purchased from the standard medicine manufacturing companies of the country?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The hon. Member has raised a wider but a very important point, namely about the purchase of the drugs and the system of their purchase. A large number of drug manufacturers in our country are in small sectors. If we go by open tender system, etc., we have to go according to the Government regulations and we cannot presume that some standard and non-standard factories or companies are there in the country. There are some well-known companies who possibly are better organised for maintaining standards and other things. But simply because they are bigger factories, we will not allow them to manufacture drugs unless certain conditions are fulfilled that they have proper equipments, that they have properly trained people and all that which is also being attempted to. So long as small scale and other sectors are allowed, we will not be able to discriminate the so-called

companies against other companies. But if any case is detected and sometimes they are detected that sub-standard supply to Government or even retail sale to the public is done, as I said, this machinery needs to be strengthened and we have a lot more to do than what is being done in this respect and I admit that.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has agreed that the manufacturing of spurious drugs and cosmetics has assumed a very serious proportion in country. And quite naturally, looking at our social ethos hardly one per cent people are caught, but for prosecuting those who are caught, as he has explained, the procedure is so lengthy and so cumbersome that the culprit gets away at some stage or the other. Will the hon. Minister assure the House that the Act dealing with the people who manufacture spurious drugs and cosmetics will be amended with a view to make it as deterrent as is being done so far as the narcotic trafficking is concerned so that the culprits who are caught, are dealt with in a very deterrent manner, in a very exemplary manner, and to other culprits who are not caught, it serves as a deterrent because there is one medicine which I know of, which is made out of blood and it has been found by SII that AIDS infested injections had shown positive results whereas others have also shown positive results and even this injection is freely available under the table. So, I want an assurance from the Minister that in this budget session he will bring an amendment to the Act dealing with the culprits with a view to make it more deterrent, more stringent and easier to punish the culprits.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know about cosmetics, but if there are lifesaving drugs and they are spurious, the manufacturers are not less than murderers. They should be treated as such.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, I fully agree with the observation that it is a very serious matter. I think it was in 1982 that the Drugs and Cosmetics Act was amended. It is an omnibus terms; all these drugs come under the Act which is called

Drugs and Cosmetics Act. so, it was in 1982 that it was amended with a view to give more powers to the investigating authorities, more punishment, minimum punishment and things like that. There again the problem is of detection. We have enough legal powers, but the machinery for detection, examination and laboratory needs to be strengthened, and in that the cooperation of the State Governments is very necessary. We are now very serious that the Act should be amended and we are reviewing the position all the time, wherever the opportunity arises in the international conferences and in All India conferences, we impressed upon the State Government; we are also in touch with the sister Ministry which deals with industrial licences in drugs etc. as to how they can improve the procedure. Sir, there is no denying that it is a very serious matter and we will see that we do all that we can to see that it is not repeated.

Translation]

Achievement of Targets of Population Growth Rate

* 109. SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for population growth rate and how far these have been achieved;

(b) the States, where the population growth rate has been higher than the national target and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the new initiatives proposed to reduce population growth rate and when these are likely to be taken?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.