

the treatment of serious cases of diseases on account of shortage of drugs. Complaints have, however, been received regarding the shortage of certain special drugs such as Contrast media for X-ray, anti-cancer drugs, special anaesthetic drugs such as Thiopentone Sodium, anti-tubercular drugs for drug resistant cases etc. In those cases the grant of *ad hoc* licences for their import were recommended to the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports. Government have received no reports of any black market flourishing in drugs and medicines.

(c) The following action has already been taken with a view to meet the situation arising out of shortages:—

- (1) An *ad hoc* ceiling of Rs. 1.3 crores was sanctioned from rupee sources and the S.T.C. has entered into contract for import of essential raw materials. The first shipment has already arrived and is under clearance.
- (2) The State Drugs Control authorities were advised to weed out non-essential drugs while recommending grant of licences for import of raw materials.
- (3) The list of Essential Drugs published in the Import Trade Control Policy was revised to cover only the critically essential drugs so that established Importers could import only those items. Barter deals and Export Promotion Scheme licences were also recommended to be made valid for the import of only critically essential drugs.
- (4) Import licences for special drugs required for personal use were recommended liberally.
- (5) Attempts are being made in collaboration with the C.S.I.R. to develop essential drugs from indigenous sources.

Central Government Hostel in Madras

***462. Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the considerable inconvenience caused to the Central Government Officers and Members of Parliamentary Committees visiting Madras for want of any Central Government Hostel just on the lines of the one set up at Calcutta;

(b) if so, whether Government have under consideration any proposal to build some such Hostel in Madras too; and

(c) when this project is likely to be taken up and completed?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) to (c). There is no proposal for building a hostel in Madras. However, a rest house for Central Government Officers will be provided in the office building under construction at Haddows Road. The building is expected to be completed by June this year. Meanwhile a rest house is being run in the residential flats at No. 12, Haddows Road.

D.V.C. Audit

***463. Shri Mohammad Elias:**
Dr. Ranen Sen:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that expenditure on Damodar Valley Corporation Audit is on continuous increase for the last few years, although there has been a substantial reduction in the works of the Damodar Valley Corporation; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the employment of a large number of employees in the Audit Section without enough work, the Audit is indulging in unnecessary

work leading to wastage of time and money?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

National Defence Remittance Scheme

***464. Shri Jashvant Mehta:
Shri Yashpal Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount received in terms of foreign exchange under the National Defence Remittance Scheme up-till now; and

(b) whether Government have taken any decision to extend the Scheme beyond the 28th February, 1966?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) Rs. 27.20 crores upto 8th March, 1966.

(b) Yes, Sir. As announced in the Press Note dated the 23rd February, 1966 the Scheme has been extended upto 31st May, 1966.

Credit from Hungary

***465. Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Hungarian delegation recently visited New Delhi and offered credit and economic collaboration to India;

(b) if so, the precise offer made by the delegation; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) to (c). During his recent visit to India, the Prime Minister of the Hungarian People's Republic offered a Government Suppliers' Credit of Rs. 25 crores for India's economic development. The Government of India has accepted the

offer. The details of the credit including the purposes for which it will be used will be negotiated later.

Scarce Raw Materials for Industries

***466. Shri Narayan Reddy:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Himatsingka:**

Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission propose to set up a central agency to undertake detailed planning for long-term import and distribution of scarce raw materials to industries;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

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

The Minister of Planning (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Payment for Import of Food Partly in Dollars

***467. Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Kishen Pattanayak:
Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move by the U.S. Government to make India pay for the imported food, partly in dollars; and

(b) if so, the dollar and rupee contents of these imports?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) Payments for food imported under the current U.S. Public Law 480 are made in rupees. However, payment for the freight has to be made in dollars. No change is contemplated with regard to either of these in terms of