

[Sh. Shanti Dhariwal]

public importance under Rule 377. The country is very much concerned about the increase in price. The prices of agricultural commodities as well as the cost of production have gone up. The issue must be given a serious thought immediately. The cost of major implements like tractor etc to minor ones and the rates of inputs like water, electricity, fertilisers seeds, labour, transportation have gone up considerably. As compared to this increase, the farmer is not getting remunerative prices for his produce. He is compelled to sell his produce in the village itself at cheaper rates due to the absence of roads and other mean of transportation.

In this connection, I would like to urge the Government to increase the prices of agricultural products by 10%. The State Governments should be directed to reduce the administrative expenditure by reconstituting Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees. The Government should also implement the development projects efficiently to provide relief to the farmers. It would enable the farmers to get the reasonable cost of their produce.

[English]

(vi) Demand for remedial action to Reduce the Price of Sera, Vaccines and paracetamol to prevent exploitation of the Poor Consumers

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH (Azamgarh): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare recommended inclusion of Sera and Vaccines in the National Health Programme. Although Kelkar Committee's jurisdiction did not extend to category-I drugs, it recommended price decontrol on Sera and Vaccines and on Paracetamol. The Ministry accepted the recommendation of the Kelkar

Committee and decontrolled Sera and Vaccines but did not decontrol Paracetamol. The prices of Sera and Vaccines have risen by 225 per cent and as a result, immunisation programmes are suffering. It is not known as to why the Ministry accepted the recommendation of Kelkar Committee on category-I drugs in total disregard of the earlier recommendations of the Health Ministry? Proper investigation and remedial action in the matter may be undertaken immediately in order to save the poor consumer from the exploitation of drug companies.

(vii) Demand for Nationalising the Drugs Manufacturing Industry and withdrawal of the new Drugs (Price Control) Order

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling): Sir, a few days back, about two lakhs Chemists and Druggists throughout the country closed their shutters in protest against the new Drug Price Control Order of the Government. As a consequence of this order, the prices of many life saving drugs have gone up manifold. This order instead of controlling the prices has led to increase in the prices from 15 to 400 per cent. This order has also led to increase in the profit several fold for the drug manufacturing companies and multinationals to the detriment of suffering people, wholesalers and retailers. One of the main reasons for sudden spurt on drug price is imposition of nearly 48 per cent taxes by the Government. On the other hand, due to want of effective control over the manufacturing companies, many spurious drugs are being produced and sold in the country causing danger to the health of drug consuming people. In view of the seriousness of the situation, I urge upon the Government to nationalise the manufacturing of drugs, withdraw the New Drug Price Control Order and scrap the Psychotropic Drugs Act.