

17.00 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Substandard Drugs Manufactured in Government Factories.

[Translation]

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Chairman, the half-an-hour discussion has been postponed many times and incidentally its turn has come today. I would request to the hon. Minister to have some patience because it is a very interesting incident. I will prove that it is not a mistake of the hon. Minister and how the employees of his department have compelled him by evading the question. I shall deal with it systematically.

[English]

Unstarred Question No. 194, answered on the 23rd July, 1985 in Lok Sabha. The question was :

"a) Whether it is a fact that sub-standard drugs manufactured in Government factories are being supplied ;

b) If so, whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the complaints made in this regard ;

c) If so, the facts which came to light during the enquiry ; and

d) If not, the reasons therefor ?"

The answer was :

"a to d : Government's attention has been drawn to a press report captioned 'Sarkari Karkhane Se Ghatiya Dava Ki Supply' (Supply of sub-standard medicines from Government Factory) which was published in the 'Navbharat Times' dated the 10th March, 1985. Information in this regard has already been furnished to the Lok Sabha in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2223 answered on the 9th April, 1985."

[Translation]

Sir, no reply has been given whether any enquiry has been conducted or not. It was asked in the unstarred question No. 2223 of 9th April, 1985.

[English]

"a) Whether it has come to the notice of the Government that tetracycline imported by the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited in 1977 was sub-standard and the same medicine had been supplied to the public ;

b) Whether his attention has been invited to the press report captioned 'Sarkari Karkhane se Ghatiya Dava Ki Supply (Supply of sub-standard drugs from Government factory) published in the Navbharat Times' of 10 March, 1985 ;

c) If so, the full details thereof ; and

d) the reaction of Government thereto ?
The answer was :

"a, b, c and d : Government's attention has been drawn to a press report captioned 'Sarkari Karkhane Se Ghatiya Dava Ki Supply' (Supply of sub-standard medicines from Government Factory) which was published in the Navbharat Times' dated the 10th March, 1985.

"Hindustan Antibiotics Limited purchased 8 batches of imported tetracycline bulk drugs from Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited in May, 1977 and took delivery even before testing because of immediate requirement. The material was tested by Hindustan Antibiotics Limited in its Quality Control Laboratory and found satisfactory. Based on this, a part of the bulk drug was taken up for processing and capsules prepared were supplied to the Army. These were returned by the Army as they developed colour. In the meantime, the test report of the Drug Controller was received by the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited which indicated that four batches were of sub-standard. Part of the material was returned to Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited and replacement received by HAL subsequently. The other part was reprocessed to IP specification and used for making human and veterinary formulations. The capsules returned by the Army were also reprocessed to IP specifications and disposed of. No. complaints were received in this regard."

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

[Translation]

Sir, I want to submit that in reply to both the questions it has not been stated whether enquiry was held or not and if the enquiry was held, who was found guilty for all this. I know that I am not supposed to read from the newspaper here but as the whole matter has come to light from the report published in "The Nav Bharat Times," I am reading out this news before you. I am reading out certain portions only. After that, you may decide what type of reply has been given by Government.

"Whether because of the carelessness of the officers and the employees of the two Government undertakings—The Hindustan Anti-biotics Ltd. and The Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.—the patients of the country were made to consume lakhs of substandard Tetracycline capsules.

The Hindustan Anti-biotics Ltd. on 29th April 1977 placed an order with IDPL for 18 tonnes of Tetracycline worth Rs. 1.17 crores. HAL paid more than Rs. 14 lakhs as advance. The IDPL, out of the imported drug, supplied 2,100 kgs. to HAL. Before supplying the drug to HAL the test report of the Drug Controller for this imported drug had not been received.

Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the rules made thereunder no importer can import a drug which is not of a specified quality. Therefore, HAL should not have been supplied this drug without the test report. Thereafter, HAL on 31st May 1977 demanded from IDPL the test report of the drug supplied to them, as without that report the drug could not have been examined. In the meantime, HAL tested the drug received by them and declared it fit on 26th May 1977. How this was done is still a mystery. In June 1977, after the drug was declared fit by its laboratory, 1525 kg. Tetracycline was sent for manufacturing capsules.

In the meantime, the Drug Controller on the basis of test of the samples stated in his report that out of 8 batches supplied by the IDPL, 4 batches were of substandard quality. I.D.P.L. asked the HAL to send back those quantities of the drug which related to substandard batches. But by that time so much time had passed that out of those 8 batches, the drug of 6 batches had been either used for manufacturing or was in the final stage of manufacturing capsules. HAL returned the remaining two batches to I.D.P.L."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Rajhans, it will take a long time to read out the whole newspaper. You may read out the necessary portions.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : I am reading only the necessary portions, Sir. I will read only one or two paragraphs more.

"In the meantime the Drug Controller after investigating the entire matter asked HAL not to sell capsules manufactured with the substandard drug and told them that those capsules should be destroyed. But HAL said that the drug had been reprocessed and rendered fit and the capsules were all right and permission should, therefore, be granted to sell them in the market. The Drug Controller replied that permission could be granted only after the reprocessed capsules had been examined. The Drug Controller examined the reprocessed drug. 8.68 lakh capsules had been manufactured with the reprocessed drug. A major portion of this had been supplied to the Armed Forces but their officers returned 1.30 lakh capsules after examination. The Armed Forces were of the view that these capsules were not fit after reprocessing."

Sir, I have given this background because the matter is related to the entire country. If people lose confidence in the Public Sector, then what will be the result? Now I want to ask two or three questions. My first question is why was the enquiry not held? If the enquiry was held who were found guilty? What action

was taken against the persons found guilty? When, after import, it was found that the drug was of inferior quality, whether a case was filed against the supplying country? If not, why? The Government should reveal whether there is something wrong in the matter or not? It should also tell us whether half of the capsules declared unfit were used for the agricultural or veterinary purposes because the Government report and the press reports differ. The Government should also tell us whether Army had returned 1.30 lakh capsules? Now when I am speaking on the subject, I would like to quote from 'The Tribune' of 7 August, 1985 also, in which it has been reported that there is collusion between IDPL and the private drug manufacturers. What is happening is that on loan licence basis, the IDPL permits the private manufacturers to utilise its capacity for manufacturing drugs and these manufacturers earn huge profits from this arrangement, whereas IDPL earns no profit from this. So far IDPL has suffered a loss of Rs. 143 crores. Its share in the market sale is just 1.7 per cent or Rs. 24 crores whereas retail sale in the country is of the order of Rs. 1,660 crores. These figures relate to 1983-84. Therefore, will Government inform us of the reasons for this? IDPL has been able to get only 1.7 per cent of the total sale.

I would again appeal to the Hon. Minister to constitute a joint committee of both the Houses to make an enquiry into the affairs of IDPL, because it is a very serious matter. According to my study, even the State Governments prefer to purchase medicines from the private companies than from IDPL. Why is it so? Has the IDPL lost its goodwill to this extent that even the State Governments prefer private companies to the public undertakings in the matter of purchase of medicines?

In such a vast country, there are only four drug testing laboratories. Recently, I was reading a report that in Bihar large scale sale of spurious drugs is going on. The reason is that people from Bihar have to go to Ghaziabad or Calcutta for getting their drugs tested.

Lastly, I would submit that multi-national companies of the country are fleecing the country. Maxaform was banned in Japan in 1970 but the same medicine continued to be marketed in the country till 31 March, 1985. 30 lakh people were paralysed in Japan and compensation to the tune of crores of rupees had to be paid to them. But here the Government as well as the doctors declared Maxaform to be fit. Now the medicine has been withdrawn quietly. In the market, it is available even now. It is an anti-diarrhoea drug. There is another medicine—Tendril. It is a pain killer. It is manufactured by CIBA-GIEGY which is a multi-national company. This company has befooled the people. People have suffered much due to Tendril. It has created blood disorders, blindness and paralysis. Now the company, just to befool the people, has changed the name of Tendril to Sugarnil. It has been sugar coated and is being sold in the market. Of all the things, what is more surprising is that for the last 5 to 6 months, the Government has directed the drug companies that there is no need to indicate directions on the medicines. You might have noticed that on medicines, it is indicated that if after intake of 4 doses, it does not cure or it reacts, the medicine should not be taken. Now this thing is not written on any medicine. You may recall, earlier this direction used to be written in Hindi and Urdu also. It may not be written in Hindi and Urdu, but at least it should be written in English. People say that directions are not being indicated to effect economy. It is not economy, rather it is cheating. These drug companies want to befool the people. I also want to submit that the medicines rejected in the Western countries are marketed in India.

Sir, I want that the hon. Minister should reply all these questions.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : Sir, the hon. Member referred to a complaint about a sub-standard drug which was made in 1977. This is not a recent complaint; it is a

[Shri Veerendra Patil]

complaint of 1977. The hon. Member referred to the supply and manufacture of sub-standard drugs by Government factories, and he referred to Unstarred Question No. 194. In that question, the Member had asked : 'whether it is a fact that sub-standard drugs manufactured in Government factories are being supplied.' And he read the reply also. I do not want to repeat the reply which he has already read in the House.

I would like to give the details of this complaint, which was made in 1977. In 1977, there was a complaint about Tetracycline bulk supplied by IDPL to HAL in May, 1977. The drug which was supplied by IDPL to HAL was imported Tetracycline bulk drug. It was not manufactured here ; it was imported. After it was supplied to HAL, they took delivery of this medicine even before testing, because there was an immediate requirement. But this material was tested by HAL in its Quality Control Laboratory and found satisfactory. Based on this, a part of the bulk drug was taken up for processing, and capsules prepared were supplied to the Army.

Sir, the bulk drug came from outside. It was imported. It was not manufactured here ; and formulations were done out of that bulk drug. When these formulations were supplied to the Army in the Army, they have got their own testing laboratory and they periodically test them and when they found that they were not according to the standard, and they found that four batches of them were of sub-standard quality, they were returned. And this was processed to Indian Pharmacopoeia standards, and used for making human and veterinary drugs.

So far as re-processing of the drug which was returned is concerned, it was re-processed, and this re-processing was looked into by Maharashtra's Drug Controller ; and I can tell the House and also the hon. Member that no sub-standard material was sold by HAL. It is not disputed that there was a mistake in the test by the Quality Control staff of HAL. As soon as the Drug Controller's report was received, the processing was stopped, and corrective steps were taken.

This is the only incident which happened in 1977. I have mentioned the particulars about this incident. It was not deliberate. Sometimes it happens but those sub-standard drugs are not deliberately manufactured. In the process, they are called sub-standard, if they are not according to specification. If they are not according to the required standard, they are called sub-standard. Sometimes we do receive such complaints, but these sub-standard drugs are not deliberately manufactured to cheat consumers or to cheat any party. But sometimes it happens ; and whenever it happens, and whenever it is brought to the notice of the manufacturer, immediate corrective steps are taken.

So far as spurious drugs are concerned, they are imitations, like counterfeit currency; they are manufactured clandestinely. In this regard, I can only tell the hon. Member that no Government factory is manufacturing spurious drugs. Spurious drugs are manufactured only by such people who do not have any licence. They do it clandestinely, and it is like counterfeit currency ; it is like imitation. In order to check the production of spurious drugs, intelligence machinery is required, So far as drug control is concerned, drug quality is concerned, this is the subject, I must submit to the hon. House, that the Drugs and Cosmetics Act regulates the manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs in the country; and this Act is administered by the Ministry of Health. So far as the control of the quality of the drugs is concerned, if it is indigenously manufactured it is the responsibility of the State Government to look into the quality, to ensure the quality of the drug of the indigenous manufacturer. So far as the imported drugs are concerned, in order to ensure the quality of the imported drugs also, it is the responsibility of the Drugs Controller, India, who is under the Health Ministry. They have got certain areas, certain airports. Whenever bulk drugs, whenever formulations are imported, samples are taken out ; they are tested. They have got testing laboratories, and if they are found below standard, then immediately either the exporters are asked to take them back if they are not willing to take them back, then they are destroyed. So far as indigenous drugs are concerned, about the quality of the indigenous drugs is concerned, it is the responsibility of the

State Government. Every State Government has got a Drugs Controller under them, and they have got the testing laboratories also. I can tell the hon. House that every year 18,000 samples are tested by the States and Central Government in the drugs testing laboratories. Sufficient care is being taken. I know that there are certain States where they do not have adequate facilities, but there are certain States where they have got adequate testing facilities, and they have also got intelligence wings in order to see that these sub-standard drugs or spurious drugs are not manufactured. As and when they get the information, immediately action is taken. I can only say that I have got the figures to show that so far as IDPL is concerned, it is only in 1977 unfortunately it happened, because that imported drug was found to be sub-standard subsequently, but that was immediately rectified or corrected. So far as IDPL is concerned, the Director General of Health Services has reported, that they have not received any complaint regarding quality of drugs manufactured by the public sector drug company in the recent past. It was only in 1977 unfortunately that happened. Similarly, with regard to another public sector drug company, that is Hindustan Antibiotics, no complaint was received with regard to the drugs produced by them. Another public sector drug company, that is Bengal Immunity, they received some complaints, not from the Drugs Controller but the company have reported that quality complaint in their case related mostly to transfusion of bottles. These complaints related to fungus growth and the presence of a particular matter. During 1983-84 and 1984-85, out of 1,387 batches, only 10 batches were reportedly considered not of the standard by the government analysis from Punjab and West Bengal. Only stray incidents were there. So far Bengal Chemicals has received only two complaints from the Drugs Controller Authority and five complaints from others. These complaints related to potency, colour, etc. I am mentioning these things because the hon. member is under the impression that our public sector companies are engaged in producing sub - standard drugs and also spurious drugs. It is not a fact. They are producing quality goods. Here and there, when they are producing in large quantity, hundreds of crores of rupees of drugs are being manufactured. sometimes in the

process of manufacture, if some mistake takes place or in the transit or while transporting if there sufficient precaution is not taken or in the storage also if sufficient precaution is not taken, even the good drugs become sub - drugs, but they are not deleberate. Sufficient precautions are being taken not only by the State Drugs Central Department but also by the Central Drugs Control Department. Every time periodically, thousands of samples are taken, thousand of samples are tested in order to ensure the quality of the drug. Therefore, it is not correct to say that these government factories or other factories, whether they are in the public sector or in the private sector, they are not in the habit of producing sub - standard drugs or spurious drugs. Here and there, if there are any complaints, they are immediately brought to the notice of the manufacturers and the manufacturers are taking immediate action to rectify and see that such complaints are not received.

The hon. Member wanted to know about the drugs which are rejected in other countries but are still sold in our markets. So far as drugs are concerned, whether they should be marketed in the country or not, it is the Drug Controller of India who is under the Health Ministry, who has the authority. If he feels that for our country a particular drug is not suitable, immediately a ban is imposed on the marketing of that drug. There are certain drugs which are marketed outside the country but not in our country. And there are certain drugs which are banned in other countries but are marketed in our country. It depends upon the judgment of the Drug Controller of India. He has got an expert committee to advise him? They examine all these points periodically whether a particular drug should be marketed or not. Therefore, it is not correct to say that the rejected drugs or outdated drugs are marketed in this country. I do agree that there may be a few stray cases. Whenever stray cases are brought to our notice, immediate action is taken.

I once again assure the hon. Member that we are all here, whether the State Governments or the Central Government, to see that the quality drugs are manufactured, supplied and marketed in the country to the consumers and at reasonable prices.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : I am sorry to say that the hon. Minister does not have the full information. The market is full of spurious drugs. And about multi-nationals, I would request the hon. Minister to look into the matter and make a thorough enquiry into the matter.

I would beg of you, Sir, to have a thorough discussion on this subject under Rule 193 in the next session because this is a very important subject and I have got plenty of material on the subject.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also rise to support the point made by my friend. It is our misfortune that quality and quantity of medicines to be produced are controlled by the Ministry of Industry. Which type of medicines would be sold in the market, is also controlled by them. But it is the Ministry of Health which decides how the control will be exercised. Due to lack of proper co-ordination between both the Ministries, the people have generally to face a lot of difficulties. It is a common thing that fake and sub-standard medicines are being sold in the market. Medicines which have been banned in the developing countries are being sold in our country and multi-national companies are earning huge profits by selling them. Medicines are being sold at very high prices, even then these medicines are in short supply. We had thought that during 1983, on the demand of various sections of the society. Government had supported this view that National Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Council should be formed and the working group of the council should be entrusted the job of preparing a priority list and also decide as to which medicines are essential. As time is very short, I am not going in details about Hathi Committee Report, W.H.O. Report and other such reports. It was said that a National Drug Policy would be formulated about production. We had very high expectations about this policy. But the type of report which has been prepared and especially the priority list which has been finalised by N.D.P.C. has created doubts about its entire working. It has been reported in the Newspapers that the experts working in this field have

expressed their opinion. The Members of both Houses of Parliament have expressed this view that the drugs and medicines manufactured by multi-nationals have been kept out of the Priority List.

18.00 hrs.

There are certain drugs which come under the category of essential drugs and there are certain very useful medicines, but these medicines and drugs have been kept out of the Priority List with a view to serve certain vested interests. I think the hon. Minister must have understood my point. I would like to know the criterion and the procedure which has been adopted by N.D.P.D.C. while drawing the Priority List. What is the reason that many such important, essential and life saving drugs have been kept out of that list and some unimportant medicines have been included in the Priority List.

Secondly, N.D.P.D.C. must have consulted your Ministry while drawing the priority list or must have sent it to your Ministry later on. I would like to know whether your Ministry cleared the Priority List prepared by N.D.P.D.C. straight away without going through it. It was after a prolonged struggle that Government had agreed on this point and a policy decision was taken. If despite that policy decision, desired results are not achieved, I think it would give rise to many doubts. It would bring a bad name to Government, your Ministry and you would also be blamed and the people for whose welfare you are taking steps would continue to suffer. I would, therefore, like to know if the priority list drawn by N.D.P.D.C. and the deliberations of your working group would be placed before Parliament for detailed discussion, so that before their finalisation, the representatives of the people could also express their views.

[English]

SHRI AJOY BISWAS (Tripura West) : Sir, actually the multinational companies are controlling the Indian drugs market. We are, therefore, interested in seeing that the multinational's influence should be curbed and the public sector companies

should come up. We definitely want that but side by side we also want that the public sector drug companies should produce good standard drugs. It is a fact that sub-standard drugs are being supplied by the public sector drug companies. What is actually happening is that the public sector units secure orders and then they pass on those orders to the private companies. The private companies produce the drugs, pack them and supply them on behalf of public sector drug companies. So, there is no check on them. If the private drug companies produce sub-standard drugs, then naturally they will supply them to the hospitals and to others. If we do not have control over the private sector drug companies, they will be producing sub-standard drugs. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that particularly under the scheme for rural development and welfare, the Government decided to supply ten lakh rural health kits for the bare-footed doctors, and this order was placed on the public sector drug companies.....(Interruption).

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : IDPL,

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Yes, and then they passed on the order to the lone-licence private manufacturers who have produced these drugs. They supplied these drugs on behalf of the IDPL and there was no tender for it. I may point out the picture about what is happening. There is no tender and there is a racket between the private drug companies and the public sector manufacturers. If the Minister does not stop it, he will not be able to stop the production of the sub-standard drugs. So, my question is whether the public sector units, IDPL, are not utilising their own installed capacities to help the vested interests? What is the capacity utilisation of the public sector units and what this sector units are actually producing. Secondly, why is the IDPL not manufacturing the drugs like Analgin, Aspirin, Cough mixture, Salpha drugs etc, when there is a capacity to manufacture them? I would also like to know whether it is a fact that the order for the drugs in rural health kits placed with the public sector units and that that was passed on to the lone-licence manufacturers, who had done this and when it was decided? I

would like to know whether the Government will go into this. I would also like to know whether the Government have any check over the private manufacturers; whether the public sector units are entering into any agreement with the private sector manufacturers for manufacturing of drugs on behalf of the public sector units. If so, what are the terms of the agreements?

[Translation]

SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to ask the hon. Minister what action has been taken by him to check the sale of spurious medicines in the market and about which complaints have been received continuously? How many people have been apprehended so far and what punishment has been given to them?

Sir, a shop under the control of Super Bazar is functioning in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, but the medicines prescribed by the doctors are not available there. It encourages corruption and the sale of spurious medicines and as a result, the patients do not get the proper medicines. Thirdly, what sort of control is exercised by the Government about the medicines manufactured in Government factories and the private factories?

Fourthly, I would like to know what measures have been taken by Government to check the sale of drugs and medicines whose expiry dates have been over?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Rawat, mentioned about spurious drugs and sub-standard drugs.

So far as spurious drugs are concerned, I can tell the hon. Member and the House that those who manufacture spurious drugs do not approach the Government for a licence and then only manufacture spurious drugs. Because it is, as I said, like counterfeit currency. No counterfeit currency is manufactured or printed in the Government Press.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : We had made a mention about it so that you could pass on our feelings to the hon. Health Minister and stringent action could be taken to check it.

[English]

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : That is why I am saying that so far as spurious drugs are concerned, they are manufactured by unsocial elements and undesirable elements. They are manufactured clandestinely. For that there is the State Drug Controller. They have got their own intelligence. May be, some States have this and some States do not have this. When they get the information, immediately they raid those places and they take action. They refer the case to the police. But I can tell the House that such cases are very few, very rare. There is no point in talking about the spurious drugs and all that, because, such cases are very few and they are very negligible.

Dr. G. S. RAJHANS : There are plenty of cases of these spurious drugs. I will prove it.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : That is why I say that so far as the quality of drugs is concerned, if these are indigenous drugs, the 'competent authority' or the 'appropriate authority' is the state Government. There is a Drug Controller under the State Government who has to ensure the production, distribution and supply of quality drugs.

Now, if the drugs are imported, then, it is the Central Government in the Health Ministry which comes in. It is the Drug Controller of India who is responsible for that.

So, I think, I need not repeat again that so far as spurious drugs are concerned, they are very rare and such instances are not very common as some of the hon. Members are trying to make out.

About 'sub - standard drugs' I have already stated that such instances also are very few—whether in the public sector or in the private sector.

Now, I can tell hon. Members for their information that for the last two years no complaints were received about supply of sub - standard drugs by the IDPL from any State Drug Controller.

I have already mentioned in my earlier reply that there were a few stray cases regarding sub - standard drugs which came to our notice and immediately action was taken.

Some hon. Members mentioned repeatedly about multinationals or FERA companies. There are FERA Companies who are manufacturing Drugs. They are very few. Earlier, there were nearly 31 or 32 FERA Companies. They have, according to the directive of the Government of India, diluted their equity participation. They have now diluted their equity to 40 per cent. They have become Ex-FERA Companies or Indian Companies and they are no longer FERA Companies at all. But, even if they are FERA Companies or Ex-FERA Companies, or any other company, if they are found to be indulging in producing sub-standard drugs, certainly, action will be taken. But, as I have already stated, such instances are very few. Whenever such instances were brought to our notice, action was taken very promptly.

Now, the hon. Member Mr. Rawat wanted to know about the Drug Policy and the Report of NDPC. that is, National Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Council. They have submitted a Report to the Government of India. In that Report, there is list of priority or the list regarding which there should be a price control according to their recommendations. There has been discussion and views have been expressed by several Members inside the House and outside the House with regard to that Report. But that Report had been made to the Government and it is still being considered. Government has not taken any final decision in the matter. It is under active consideration. They have prepared a priority list of about 95 drugs. There are Members who feel that instead of 95, it should be 200 or it should be 300. It is an individual opinion. They asked, why have they included only 95 drugs in that priority list. They have given the

reasons for that. But as I said, Government has not yet taken any view in that matter. The Government while taking the view in the matter will also take into consideration the views expressed by the Members of this House and also of the other House.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Before finalising that report, will you please place the report on the Table of the House just to know our reaction ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : That is not the usual practice. I do not know whether I should say that this report was threadbare discussed in the Consultative Committee where Members of both the Houses were present. We have taken into consideration their views also. Once we take a decision on this report, we will come to the House and inform the House what decision we have taken and what were the recommendations. But if you want to know the contents of the NDPCL report, I am prepared to send a copy of the report to the hon. Member and if he wants to communicate his views, his views are most welcome and we will take them into consideration.

One point has been made out by Mr. Ajoy Biswas. Again he talked of substandard drugs and he mentioned about lone licensing. As far as lone licensing is concerned, in IDPL they have to do it in the commercial interest and they do it only in exceptional cases. It is not common that whatever they get, they pass on that order to some other manufacturer or a manufacturer in the small scale sector and get it produced. But whatever the circumstances demand, they have to act. He has mentioned about the rural health kits. There was an urgency in the rural health kits, because they were to be supplied to the Health Ministry. Rural health kit includes 17 medicines and out of 17 medicines, there are so many medicines which IDPL is not manufacturing. It is manufacturing only bulk drugs, essential drugs and drugs included in categories I and II where the other private manufacturers are reluctant to manufacture because the profitability is very less. There is no margin of profit. That is why, IDPL, HAL and other public sector units are losing. It is because, they are manufacturing these drugs. The other drug manufacturers are

not only manufacturing cheap drugs, not only manufacturing vitamins and the drugs included in categories III and IV, but they are also engaged in other activities like cosmetics and other things and they make a lot of money out of them. But the object of the Government in establishing IDPL, HAL and other public sector units is not making money but to ensure that essential drugs and other drugs which are consumed in large quantity are made available to the consumers in abundance and within a reasonable price level. That is why, wherever IDPL has found that it is not possible for it to manufacture these drugs, then to that extent, if there is an urgency, it gives them to others to manufacture, i.e. lone licensing. And that manufacture is also done under the strict supervision of our units.

So far as the rural health kit is concerned, it includes 17 medicines, as I have already said. Many of them are not produced by IDPL and therefore some medicines were got to be produced on lone licensing. After due process, the lone licensing was selected after technical inspection and on competitive prices. No quality complaints were received in this regard from any of the consumers or to whom we have supplied so far. Therefore, it is not correct to say that Government factories, Government units or private drug manufacturing units are indulging in producing substandard drugs and all that.

Hon. Member, Shri Siddiq wanted to know about the spurious drugs. As I said, spurious drugs are manufactured by anti-social people clandestinely. It is for the Intelligence wing in the State Government and Central Government to find out where are the areas, where are the places where these are manufactured and they have to take immediate action. However, such cases are very few. Whenever they are brought to the notice of the Government, immediate action has been taken.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to re-assemble at 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

18.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, August 21, 1985/Sravana 30, 1907 (Saka).