

ture more of other drugs where they have got more margin of profit. This must also be the factor to some extent, responsible for shortage.

My hon. colleague has made it clear to the House with regard to allowing these drug manufacturing units to increase the prices keeping in view the cost of the inputs. This has already been worked out by the BICP. According to the recommendations of the BICP are going to take a decision very shortly. I feel that once we take a decision, then it will be possible for them to go in a very big way to manufacture more quantity of medicine and to that extent, more medicine would be available in the market.

There are certain life saving drugs like anti-cancer drugs, heart drugs, leprosy and blood pressure drugs. I want to assure the hon. Members that if we find that any manufacturing unit is not manufacturing these drugs and their equivalent is not available, we are prepared to import. We have been importing. Last year, we had imported medicine worth Rs. 81 crores. Year before last year also we had imported medicines worth Rs. 81 crores. Therefore, we do not hesitate because we do not want the people, and particularly the patients to suffer. So, if there is any such case where it is not available in the market, we are prepared to import it and we are prepared to airlift that medicine and make it available to the consumers. We are taking all steps, and I want to assure the hon. Member that there would not be any scarcity; there may be scarcity of medicine of certain brand names here and there. To that extent we will make all possible arrangements, and I want to once again assure the hon. Member that so far as the shortage is concerned, that will be fully met, we will take all possible steps to see that the shortage will not remain and it is made available in the market to the extent that is required for the consumer.

12.21 hrs.

PETITION RE. BAN ON EXPORT OF FROGS' FLESH

SHRI R. K. MHALGI (Thane): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Dutta Tamhane and others regarding ban on export of frogs' flesh.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we take up matters under Rule 377.

(i) SUBARNAREKHA FLOOD CONTROL AND IRRIGATION PROJECT

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377.

Balasore district in Orissa being a permanent victim to the prey of high floods of Subarnarekha, Jalka, Budhabalang and Baitarani rivers sustaining huge losses of kharif crops every year by which the financial backbone of lakhs of farmer families is breaking day by day. The inter-State Subarnarekha flood control-cum-irrigation project with the Central assistance is yet to come out. In considering the extraordinary delay of this Subarnarekha flood control and irrigation project, the expert opinion was to have some drainage schemes in the valley to render some protection to the kharif crops which is the only source of living of the 18 lakhs of people of this district. Specially the drainage projects of Bhogarai block which is the border of West Bengal and situated in the mouth of Subarnarekha river, where all the flood water of Subarnarekha from West Bengal accumulated causing heavy damages to kharif paddy crops every year. As per expert opinion some drainage along with sluice gates are to be provided to safeguard the crops from destruction, were investigated by the World Bank expert who