

ashtra and if so, the steps being taken by the Government to implement the proposals? My question is as to whether the Government is going to change the textile policy evolved by Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Government in 1985 which caused some fluctuations in the industry.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the position in Maharashtra is not that grim as it is in West Bengal. It is not only the case with the N.T.C. Mills in Bombay alone, but in other places also viz. Gujarat, Tamilnadu, Kerala etc the position is same. I noticed that there is no labour problem at these places. I have all along been receiving letters from the Chief Minister of Maharashtra in this regard. It is not only the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, but the hon. Members of Parliament from the State are very meticulous in their work.

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: When are you going to visit Maharashtra.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the N.T.C. is as good as a hospital functionary in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh etc. By the word hospital I mean the silk mills which have been taken over by the Government. As such these sick mills are as good as a big honesty. I know that, even after getting subsidy the N. T. C. mills in Maharashtra are incurring losses, but as compared to West Bengal the quantum of loss in Maharashtra is not much.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 7 N. T. C. mills in Ahmedabad in Gujarat which are continuously incurring loss. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether any recommendations have been received from the Government of Gujarat. So as to reduce the loss? Secondly, 30 Textile Mills are lying closed in Gujarat. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he has received any proposal from the Textile Minister of the State suggesting to take over the Sick mills at Ahmedabad and other places?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker,

Sir, proposals have been received from the state Government and the hon Member has also been discussing with me on this subject. It is not a big problem and the information that has been asked for by the hon. Member will be furnished labor on. The hon. Member has been discussing with me the suggestions received from Gujarat in this regard. The matter will be decided very soon on the basis of these discussions.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I asked as to how the loss could be reduced.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I have replied that if there is a will, we will definitely find a way one for this.

Fly in Sealed Bottle of Medicine

•946. **SHRISANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been recently brought to the notice of Government that a fly was found in the sealed bottle of a medicine manufactured by an International Drug company;

(b) whether reports to this effect also appeared in the press; and

(c) if so, the veracity of the case and the effective steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

(a) A complaint from Dr. S. K. Ghosh of Ranchi (Bihar) addressed to the Prime Minister of India was received by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stating that a bottle of Wymox (Amoxycillin Mixture B. P.) Batch No. 9G1557 manufactured by M/s. John Wyeth (India) Ltd., Bombay and purchased from M/s. Sinha Pharmacy, Ranchi, had an insect in the sealed bottle.

(b) This Ministry is not aware whether reports to this effect also appeared in the press.

(c) The Drug Inspector, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation, East Zone, Calcutta has filed a complaint in the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate at Ranchi, Bihar against the manufacturer of the impugned sample of drug. The case was taken up and vial was seized. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ranchi has issued non-bailable warrant against the accused persons of the firm.

The case is subjudice.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir, this subject is such that several cases of drug adulteration at all levels in the country come to our notice through the press or other sources of information which is a very dangerous thing. In Delhi itself, the case of thirty thousand bottles of contaminated Glucose saline has been pending for the last one year and no effective action has been taken in this connection owing to legal intricacies. The question is not of the number of cases that have come to the knowledge of the Government. The question is that the whole country expected of the present Government that it would effectively control drug contamination adulteration. Those who are selling spurious drugs are playing with the lives of people. I would like to know whether the Government has some effective plan to check the growing tendency of adulteration of medicines so that immediate and effective action is taken in such cases against the culprits and rigorous punishment is awarded to them, under section 301.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: The original question of the hon. Member relates to a specific case but, in his supplementary, he is deviating from the scope of original question. Though his supplementary is not connected with his original question, yet I would like to inform him that we are looking into the case just now referred to by him. I would further like to assure all the hon. Members of the House that we will spare no person found

involved in contamination or adulteration of drugs.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my original question was with regard to the presence of a dead fly in a sealed bottle of medicine. In reply to this, the hon. Minister said that a suit has been filed in this case and unailable warrant issued against the culprit but he is ascending as yet. I mean to say how can things be set right if the hon. Minister gives such replies to the issues of such a vital importance as the presence of a dead fly in a sealed bottle of medicine brought to the notice of the Government. The question here is not that of the fly in the medicine bottle. I have with me a bottle of medicine even today that I can produce before the House. I would like to know from the Government whether it is going to take effective measures in such matters forthwith so that the destructive tendency of contaminating or adulteration of drugs is checked.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is an able and a qualified person. Had he put his question in a bit modified manner, it could have encompassed many aspects. Now that he has asked a very specific question, I have for the information of the hon. Member, already stated that we will take stern action against the culprit if such cases are brought to our notice.

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some drugs are considered to be the life saving drugs. They become effective once they are injected into human blood. How can we expect these drugs to save the lives of the people if contamination of drugs is allowed to continue like that in our country? This is a chronic problem which had been brought to the notice of the erstwhile Minister of Health and some proofs were also submitted. Those responsible for contaminating drugs play with the lives of the poor people. Such contaminated drugs when injected into the blood of the patients cause death instead of curing them. Such culprits, who play with the life of the common man, have not been dealt with

effectively till now and this has encouraged them to indulge in such acts. I would like to know whether it is true that the previous Minister of Health was patronising such culprits? Secondly, why the official of S. K. Pharmaceuticals, who had registered a complaint in this regard is being harassed by the Government. This officials has met the present Minister of Health and lodged his complaint with him also. His complaint is very old but no action has been taken in this regard till date, What will happen if no action is taken against the culprits and they are left at liberty to play with the lives of the poor people of this country. Why does not this Government adopt a tough stance against such people who contaminate the drugs?

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: As I have already stated, the supplementaries are not being asked in relation to the original question. However, as I have said this matter has been brought to my notice and I am looking into it. This is outrightly a wrong assumption that the former Minister of Health provided patronage to someone. We have filed a suit under the Drug control Act against the defaulters. In such cases, according to the provision of the law, all such people who manufacture, store and sell the contaminated or spurious medicines are held guilty and are convicted and we have accordingly filed a suit, but this is totally untrue that patronage was given to somebody. I have said that no such person will be spared at any cost and we will take measures to see that such people are given deterrent punishment.

SHRI KALKADAS: Mr. Speaker, sir, my question has not been answered. I had asked whether the former Minister of Health was in collusion with such people?

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would, once again, like to make it very clear to the House that there is no question of the erstwhile Minister of Health being in collusion with such culprits.

DR. BENGALI SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Glucose is a life-saving drug and every-

day there have been incidents throughout India when insects, flies or fungi were found present in glucose. I would like to know if the hon. Minister will constitute a Committee to look into the contamination problem and take stringent measures against the culprits so as to check this unprecedented tendency, because this is a life saving drug?

SHRI PASHEED MASOOD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated that we would not wait for a minute to initiate action and also that we will not spare anybody found guilty. The hon. Member should rest assure that our Government is not going to spare anyone found guilty.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, it seems that I have become confused from the reply of the hon. Minister. It is not a question of your predecessor Minister in this Government; it is a question of the former Minister. Therefore, that is not the point. The point is that, in this case, the person who had actually pointed out the flaw had been taken into task by your officers. This is the situation. So, we would like to know whether he is prepared to take the case very seriously.

SHRI RASEED MASOOD: SIR, I HAVE ALREADY INFORMED THE HOUSE that under the Drug Control Act, unfortunately or fortunately, the person who is selling it, the person who is storing it, the person who is manufacturing it, all are responsible and therefore, according to the law, appropriate action had been taken.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, I want the Health Minister to be a little more serious. I had raised this matter earlier in the Zero Hour and I had moved a Motion for Half-an-hour discussion also. I do not say it is because of Shri Rasheed Masood. He is a dynamic person. But, this is a dangerous situation in the Health Department. We do not discuss it here threadbare. Last year, the Doordarshan did a very wonderful story on the contamination of Glucose saline. Here is a person, —I do not want to mention his name

a young man, who had risked his future. He showed the bottle and informed the Health Department about the contamination. Then the Doordarshan crew went to the Safdarjung Hospital and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. The doctors said that the contaminated stuff was provided to them and when a patient is about to die, they have to inject the same stuff. So, it is a great danger. Then, the CBI started looking into the matter. The Doordarshan showed us the Drug Controller in the form of an arrogant officer. My conscience told me, he must be the worst corrupt person. Earlier, I said that he would be arrested.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Soz, you put your question. Why are you explaining?

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, I want the Minister to give an assurance to the House that he would look into the case regarding M/s. Oslar Pharmaceuticals because the Doordarshan gave the widest possible evidence. I know his acumen; I know his ability. But, he is not yet serious. So, I want him to commit before the House that he would look into all aspects of malpractices, particularly regarding M/s. Oslar Pharmaceuticals, which had done a great damage to the department and to the whole nation.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Sir, I had already assured the House that I would not only like into this particular case, but I would very seriously look into all the complaints that I receive.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Let the Minister give an assurance.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have gone to the next question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A. Charles.

National Leprosy Eradication Programme in Kerala

*947. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Leprosy Eradication Programme is under implementation in Kerala as a fully centrally sponsored scheme;

(b) if so, allocation of funds made under the programme for the year 1989-90 to the State Government and targets fixed for the year;

(c) whether the targets have been achieved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following allocations/targets were made for the year 1989-90.

(Rs. in lakhs)		
(i)	Financial	
	Cash	Kind
	70.00	2.87
(ii)	Objective	Target
	New Case	
	detection	6000
	New Case	
	Treatment	6000
	Case discharge	
	After cure	700