

of such diversion and this proposal has been forwarded to the State Government. I would like to know from the Minister what the reaction of the State Government is and whether the Chief Minister of West Bengal has accepted the proposal.

SHRI BANSI LAL : The State Government has not conveyed its approval so far.

SHRI MANIK SANYAL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether the extant rule made in the statement of the second part of the reply would be followed for all the States or exemption is made in the case of some States, and if so, the reasons thereof and the names of such States.

SHRI BANSI LAL : The rule is applicable to all the States.

Manufacture of Quality Drugs

*126. **SHRI R.P. DAS :**



DR. SARADISH ROY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 15 per cent of the samples of Indian drugs tested in Government laboratories are proved to be substandard ;

(b) if so, how Government propose to ensure quality of drugs manufactured by the indigenous manufacturers;

(c) if, no such proposals are there, by what time some working arrangement for manufacture of quality drugs would be evolved by Government; and

(d) steps proposed to penalise the erring drug companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The specific measures taken by the Government to ensure the quality of drugs manufactured in the country include amendment of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act in 1982 to provide for additional powers for drug inspectors as well as stringent penalties for certain offences, appointment of a Task Force to go into the entire problem of spurious and sub-standard drugs, conducting training programmes for drug inspectors and drug analysts and assisting the States in carrying out inspections of manufacturing firms, approved drug testing laboratories, blood-banks etc.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Drugs and Cosmetics Act contains adequate penal and administrative provisions against the manufacturers whose products have been found to be sub-standard. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act has recently been amended in 1982 to make the penal provisions more stringent.

SHRI R.P. DAS : Sir, this question of sub-standard and spurious drugs was raised in the House several times in the past two-three years and each time, the Ministry gave the same reply in different languages. The intended measures are never equal to the situation of growing incidence of manufacture, distribution and sale of sub-standard and spurious drugs all over the country. At long last, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act was passed and the Government got it amended in 1982. After that, the Government formed one Task Force under the chairmanship of Shri S. Mani. It gave a few good recommendations which were considered for a long time. After the Government came the conclusion that these recommendations could not be accepted *in toto*. Now the Minister says that adequate penal administrative provisions have been made to tackle the growing incidence of manufacture of sub-standard and spurious drugs,

although the situation is quite otherwise.

In view of this, may Task the Hon. Minister how many manufacturers and their associates have so far been put behind the bars after the Drugs & Cosmetics act was given effect to; and whether such a situation has ever been brought down to the bearable limit?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :

The Hon. Member complained that the question and the reply are the same. If the questions are same, the replies will always be the same. I cannot change my reply if the same question comes today or tomorrow. But about the specific question which the asked, I can give information to the Hon. Member from the years 1978-79 to 1982-83 or if he wants information about a specific year, I can give. During 1982-83, the number of prosecutions launched was 53; the number of prosecutions decided was 27; there was an imprisonment in 13 cases and a fine in four cases and acquittal in 10 cases. Now, if he wants information about the previous year, I can give or if he wants I can lay the whole statement on the Table of the House—whatever the Deputy-Speaker decides.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Let it be laid on the Table of the House all the information whatever he has got.

SHRI R.P. DAS : I think the Mani Committee recommended abolition of lone licensee forthwith; and it was of the opinion that lone licensees are the fountain head of all such sub-standard, spurious drugs all over the country. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether this system will be abolished forthwith.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I will require a separate notice for this. It is a question which does not rise from this.

SHRI R. P. DAS : But the government have accepted the Mani's Com-

mittee recommendations. It is very much with the measures that the government have to take about spurious drugs. (*Interruptions*) There should be a reply from the government at least about lone licensees. We should know what has been done about these lone licensee? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
That does not arise from this question.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : In answer (a), the Minister said, Yes. When was this percentage discovered? Was it before the Act was amended in 1982; if so, has there been an improvement since the amendment to the Act was brought forward?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
I have got the figures upto 1984. In 1979, it was 15.41 per cent, in 1980-81, it was 15.06 per cent; in 1981-82, it was 18.3 per cent; in 1982-83, it was 17 per cent; in 1983-84, it was 14 per cent. So, in almost all cases, I said, it is the same.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : After the amendment to the Act was brought forward, the percentage increased to 18 per cent.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
It has not increased; and this does not indicate that all drugs are spurious or sub-standard because samples are drawn from the market.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : It has been reported that some drugs which have been banned in the Western countries are being sold in our country. I would like to know whether the Government have come across such reports and if so what action has been taken?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
No such drugs are imported into the country.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I said, that

certain drugs which have been banned in the Western countries because they are pernicious to human health are in circulation in our country. There were such reports. Have you come across any such reports? If so, what action has been taken? If not, will you kindly examine the problem?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : This also does not flow from this question. But I can certainly examine the problem.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV : I would like to ask the Hon. Minister how many such cases, including the production of sub-standard and spurious had been brought to his notice during the year 1982-83 in U. P. and what action has been taken by the government thereon?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I have all India figures.

[*English*]

—But no information is available in regard to Uttar Pradesh.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, I want to know whether it is a fact that in the international market, according to the W. H. O. guidelines there are 27 drugs which have not been banned actually, but it is left to the respective countries to use them or not, depending upon their geo-physical conditions. Out of those 27 drugs 21 have been banned in India, but the remaining six drugs, are in circulation in India, as they are suitable to our geo-physical conditions.

Secondly, I have heard the Minister's reply to the Question, and I want to mention that generally, the drugs and pharmaceutical laboratories—which are growing like mushrooms in the country—are not producing any standard products. I want to know whether sufficient number of qualified

people with B. Pharm qualification and other expertise are available in the country, to check them, say at least in a proportion of 1:15, so that the people of the country will be aware of the fact that spurious drugs and sub-standard drugs are available in the country, even through the C. G. H. S. Also, our own Government firms like the IDPL and other companies which are producing such drugs must maintain standard and produce good drugs.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : To say that IDPL is also producing spurious drugs.....

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I did not say 'spurious'. I had said 'sub-standard drugs'.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : So far as the question of production of sub-standard drugs is concerned, fifteen percent samples are taken to find out where the sub-standard drugs are being manufactured. In the existing infrastructure, the Central Government, of course have a responsibility, but the State Government also have a responsibility separately. The State Governments should maintain well-equipped laboratories for this purpose. The Central Government has two laboratories—one at Calcutta and the other at Ghaziabad where we test the drugs and the samples sent by the States are also tested. All the States have been asked to appoint qualified Drugs Controllers in their respective states, but barring a few States, the remaining ones have not done so. The purpose of the amendment made in the Act is to strengthen the law and to increase the testing facilities and qualified staff so that more and more States could themselves undertake this work in their own States.

So far as such drugs, are concerned as have been banned in other countries,

but are in use have.....(*Interruptions*)
Kurien Sahab had mentioned about it.

I was saying that doctors here prescribe medicines and drugs keeping in view the climate our country. It is not that they will not prescribe the banned drugs. There is a ban on D.D.T. in other countries, but we spray D.D.T. in our country. Similarly, there are certain other drugs also, but I do not have details about them at present. But if the Hon. Member wants, he would be furnished the information.

[*English*]

SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Whenever the Government finds the drugs of sub-standard quality, apart from taking action against the manufacturers and stockists, etc. What is that they do with the stock? Do they seize it or destroy it? Does the stockist continue to sell the drug?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
 It is destroyed.

SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : What is the total value of the drugs which were destroyed in the last three years?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
 That figure is not available with me.

People Affected by Drug Abuse

*127. **SHRI N. DENNIS :** Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted or propose to conduct any survey on the nature and extent of abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances at the national level with particular reference to the people affected by it and those vulnerable to drug abuse; and

(b) whether Government have taken proper steps with the co-opera-

tion of Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and Health and Family Welfare to formulate programmes, for concrete publicity and imparting education on the harmful effects of such drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR : (a) 11 research studies in the field of alcoholism and drug abuse were sponsored by the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare through universities and other educational institutions. Fresh studies in nine university centres have recently been sponsored and are likely to be completed by the middle of 1986.

(b) Yes, Sir. A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The Government has been continuously making efforts to educate people about the evils of drinking and drug abuse by publicity through mass communication media and also by encouraging voluntary organisations through grants for educative publicity.

Sponsored radio programmes entitled "NAYA SAVERA" and "AKHIR KYON" have been launched to disseminate message against drinking and drug abuse.

For the direct benefit of the student community, essay and debate competitions against drinking and drug abuse have been sponsored by the Ministry at University level.

To make the publicity more interesting, TV play competitions have been sponsored by the Ministry in the Universities coresponding to 9 regional TV stations. Cash prizes of the value of Rs. 5,000/-, Rs. 3,000/- and Rs. 2,000/- have been offered to the top three prize winning teams in each