

“Hathi mere Sathi”

After waiting in the outer room for nearly an hour, we were ushered into the Hon’ble Minister of C&F, Mr.Hemavati Nandan Bahuguna. Looking up at the heterogeneous and large IDMA delegation, the Minister irritably told the peon to bring more chairs. We accommodated ourselves, in the sofas and few juniors (like me) just stood around.

After hearing all the arguments for self-reliance import substitution to save valuable foreign exchange and a variety of suggestions for encouraging the domestic industry, when the Minister looked up, there were signs of irritation and consternation on his face. He was obviously not with us. We had quoted heavily from an earlier “well known” committee report. He shot back.

“In spite of being your Minister, I can’t move in any direction. I have become helpless. Whichever way I take, I find this “Hathi” blocking my way. ‘Hathi’ is everywhere and there is no way I can bypass this monster.”

We all had a good laugh and we knew we are winning.

Mr.Bahuguna was referring to the famous ‘Hathi Committee Report’ (headed by Mr.Jaisukhlal Hathi) which laid the foundation for the growth of Indian sector and the first major Drug Policy of India (1978) (of which our Keaylasaab was one of the architects).

Next to the 1970 amendment of the Indian Patent Act, the biggest contribution IDMA made was to the Hathi Committee Report and the Drug Policies of 1978 and 1987. These contributed immensely to the healthy, well-founded growth of the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry.