

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Commonwealth Health Ministers at their meeting in Ottawa in October 1983 recommended that "the Secretariat or the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association (CPA) should establish an inventory of drug manufacturers and drug packaging plants within the Commonwealth, particularly in the developing countries, in order to assist regional groups making bulk purchase arrangements or planning regional manufacturing and packaging programmes, where these are desirable". The CPA was commissioned to undertake this project funded by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation. Dr. J.N. Banerjee, President of CPA and Dr. R.A. Khan, a former adviser to the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and World Health Organisation (WHO), were appointed as consultants.
- 1.2 In accordance with, and in order to give effect to, the recommendation, it was felt necessary as a primary step to assess the pharmaceutical needs of the Commonwealth developing countries in relation to the human and material resources at the disposal of the countries concerned. A questionnaire was devised in two Parts, A and B, to collect the requisite data on each country and details on the pharmaceutical industrial units respectively. The questionnaire was circulated by the Commonwealth Secretariat to all the 49 member countries, and to the associated states and dependencies. The CPA sent the questionnaire to its member associations and national and international pharmaceutical manufacturers' associations. This data was supplemented by visits to WHO, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (IFPMA) in Geneva, UNIDO in Vienna, and the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry Association (ABPI) in London, where valuable information was collected.
- 1.3 In anticipation of the response from countries and associations to the questionnaire, extensive study was made of the available Commonwealth Secretariat^(1,2,3), United Nations⁽⁴⁾, World Bank⁽⁵⁾, International Monetary Fund (IMF)⁽⁶⁾, WHO⁽⁷⁾ UNIDO⁽⁸⁾, and UNCTAD^(9,10) reference materials, reports and statistics. Considerable data has, therefore, thereby has been collected on almost all the Commonwealth countries for this purpose. This data was transcribed on a separate sheet for each country and was compared with the replies received, and suitably amended and updated accordingly. The final data was then referred to each country for confirmation, with the stipulation that in the event of no answer being received from the country concerned, the data as prepared would be included in the report. Where further amendments were received, these have been incorporated.