

a major reason is that a number of vacancies have not been filled up in the High Courts in the last few years and judge strengths fixed need to be increased in many courts, especially with increase in litigation.

(c) Steps are being taken to fill up the existing vacancies in the High Courts. Where necessary, the present strength of judges in the High Courts will be increased.

#### Statement

Name of the Court	Cases pending for more than five years as on 31-12-76
Supreme Court of India	2,518*
<b>HIGH COURTS</b>	
1. Allahabad	23,074
2. Andhra Pradesh	10
3. Bombay	7,985
4. Calcutta	19,084
5. Delhi	5,135
6. Gauhati	364
7. Gujarat	352
8. Himachal Pradesh	416
9. Jammu & Kashmir	108
10. Karnataka	62
11. Kerala	14
12. Madhya Pradesh	3,728
13. Madras	1,033
14. Orissa	378
15. Patna	5,734
16. Punjab & Haryana	7,560
17. Rajasthan	1,974
18. Sikkim	Nil.

\* as on 1-4-1977.

#### Study of Hathi Committee Report

3258. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:  
SHRI SAUGATA ROY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have re-finished study of the Hathi Committee Report on drug industry;

(b) if so, what is their policy on the issue of nationalisation of the entire industry in general and foreign controlled drug firms in particular; and

(c) what positive steps, if any, are being contemplated to bring down prices of life-saving drugs which recorded a sharp rise during the rule of the previous Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). Recommendations of the Hathi Committee including their recommendations to regulate the activities of the Foreign Sector Companies in the Drug Industry are under consideration of Government and a final decision will be taken as soon as possible.

(c) With effect from 10th May, 1977, the Government have reduced the excise duty on patent and proprietary medicines containing the following bulk drugs from 12½ per cent to 2½ per cent:—

- (i) Chloroquin Phosphate
- (ii) Amodiaquin
- (iii) Glofazimine
- (iv) Tolbutamide
- (v) Metronidazole
- (vi) Diethyl Carbamazine Citrate
- (vii) Piperazine and its salts
- (viii) Rifampcin
- (xi) Tetracycline Hydrochloride.

This will have an effect towards reducing the prices of the formulations and the benefit will be passed on to the consumers as soon as the revised excise duty is levied on the new batches cleared by the excise authorities.