

Measures to Control Increase in Medicine Prices

115. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 was replaced by introducing the new measures of drug policy;

(b) if so, whether the new measures have benefited consumers or manufacturers; and

(c) the measures Government propose to take to control the increase in prices of medicine?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 which had replaced earlier DPCO, 1979, had been formulated with a view to ensuring abundant availability of essential life saving and prophylactic medicines of good quality to the consumers, at reasonable prices.

(b) The Industry has registered a good growth rate resulting in increased availability of essential drugs, thus benefitting both manufacturers and consumers. Consumers have also benefitted by getting controlled drugs at Govt. fixed prices.

(c) Govt. are monitoring the prices of controlled and non-controlled drugs to check abnormal price rises.

Provision of Air reservation in emergent cases

116. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware

about the acute difficulties of the people in regard to the air-reservations for various places in emergent cases, namely deaths, medical treatment for serious patients and other emergent cases;

(b) whether the present arrangements of 'computer system' for air reservations is working satisfactorily; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to review the present system in order to provide air reservation in the emergent cases cited above?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Difficulties are sometimes experienced by the travelling public in getting reservations.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Details of Rail Accidents

117. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail accidents during 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 (so far) and the reasons of each accident;

(b) the financial loss of railway properties and loss of human lives (year-wise);

(c) the effective steps taken or contemplated to avoid rail accidents; and

(d) the details of action taken or proposed to be taken against the railway personnel found quilty for these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Number of train accidents, broad causes