

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 benefited 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

thereof, approximate cost of damage to railway property and number of persons who lost their lives in these accidents during the

years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 (upto November 1989) is as under:—

		1987-88	1988-89	1989-90 (upto Nov. 89)
I.	No. of train accidents	604	545	372
II.	No. of accident due to			
	(i) Failure of railway staff	375	355	238
	(ii) Failure of persons other than railway staff	68	58	31
	(iii) Failure of equipment	109	85	46
	(iv) Sabotage	5	15	16
	(v) Combination of factors	12	1	3
	(vi) Other incidental causes	27	21	17
	(vii) Causes which could not be established conclusively	8	8	2
	(viii) Causes under finalisation	—	2	19
III.	Loss of railway property (Rs. in crores)	11.09	17.95	10.71
IV.	Loss of passenger lives	103 (216)	140 (244)	134 (250)

Note : (1) Figures in Items II, III & IV above for 1988-89 and 1989-90 are provisional.

(2) Figures in brackets indicate total fatalities.

(c) The following steps have been taken to prevent accident on Indian Railways:—

(i) Greater emphasis on training, refresher courses, etc. to safety categories of staff viz., drivers, station masters/assistant sta-

tion masters, guards, switchmen and cabinmen, etc.

(ii) Revamping of training systems, methods and procedures, etc., through use of modern teaching aids like slide projectors, practical demonstrations, etc.

- (iii) Greater emphasis upon rehabilitation of rolling stock including passenger coaches.
- (iv) Increased pace of track renewals.
- (v) Induction of sophisticated technology to supplement human vigilance viz., auxiliary warning system, axle counters, etc.
- (vi) Ultrasonic testing of axles and rails.
- (vii) Modernisation of workshops to improve the quality of repairs and maintenance.
- (viii) Educative campaigns through the medium of All India Radio, Doordarshan, etc., for educating the road users about the precautions to be observed while negotiating level crossings.
- (ix) Enlisting the co-operation of

State Governments to educate road users before issue/renewal of driving licences.

(d) Suitable disciplinary action under the Discipline and Appeal Rule is taken against the railway personnel held responsible for accidents.

Railway Projects in West Bengal

118. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various on-going railway projects in West Bengal;

(b) the extent of progress made in each case; and

(c) the steps contemplated for the expeditious implementation of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Details of on-going new line projects in West Bengal, with their progress, are as under:—

Projects	Length (km)	Approved cost	Physical Progress
1. Lakshmikantapur-Namkhana	47	Rs. 40.90 Cr.	7%
2. Eklakhi-Balurghat	91	Rs. 36.38 Cr.	3%
3. Howrah-Amta/Champadanga	74	Rs. 10.72 Cr.	43%
4. Tamluk-Digha	87	Rs. 43.72 Cr.	8.1%