

(b) if so steps and measures taken by Government to remedy and ease the situation;

(c) whether Government have any drug price policy in general and specific regulations/controls in particular with a view to helping the distressed and the poor; and

(d) if so, what is it and how is it being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) and (b). The price of drugs and formulations including life saving drugs are regulated by the Government under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970 with the basic objective of ensuring their equitable distribution and availability at fair prices.

The prices of drugs, including essential life saving drugs have generally remained stable over the last one year as can be seen from the following movement of the wholesale price index of drugs:—

Year	Wholesale price index for drugs and medicines (1970-71 = 100 as base)	Percentage increase
1975-76.	118.7	
1976-77.	133.9	(+)13% over 75-76
1977-78.	136.3	(+) 1.8% over 76-77
April to Sept. '78	136.2	Price held at 77-78 level.

There is neither general nor acute shortage of life saving drugs and other vital medicines. The Drug Controllers of the States as well as Zonal Drug

Controllers report the shortages on a monthly basis. The shortages are reviewed in a monthly meeting with the concerned organisations and representatives of the manufacturers and steps taken to remove the shortage, if any.

(c) and (d). The new drug policy contained in the statement laid on the table of the Lok Sabha on the 29th March, 1978 includes pricing policy. The pricing policy sets out the measures proposed to be taken by the Government with a view to rationalising the price of drugs and medicines including life saving drugs. While under the new policy Category I and II formulations mostly required by the masses would carry a mark up of 40 per cent and 55 per cent respectively. Category III formulations will carry a mark up of upto 100 per cent and there will be no price control on Category IV formulations. The new policy also envisages that for an initial period of one year, prices of existing formulations in Category I and II would be frozen with the leader prices worked out in respect of efficient major manufacturers operating as a ceiling. Where the current prices of individual manufacturers in respect of such formulations are lower than the leader prices, no increase in prices shall be allowed and wherever the current prices of the individual manufacturers in respect of such formulation are higher than the leader prices, such manufacturers will be required to bring down their prices to the leader prices level. The prices of Category III formulations will also stay frozen for an initial period of one year.

Provision of Facilities in Navasari Railway Station

1312. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that the Navasari railway station in South Gujarat on the Western Railway is in some sort of shambles and shattering conditions;

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any concrete and immediate steps to remedy and improve the said situation at Navasari; and

(c) if so, what are they and how soon they will show results in terms of better facilities, stronger and wider platforms, proper sheds etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF RAIL-
WAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN):

(a) to (c). Station Building of Navsari Railway Station is in good shape and in a structurally sound condition. The station building is regularly white-washed and maintained. Repairs are attended to as and when required. There is no necessity for reconstruction/renovation of the station building at present.

There is also no proposal at present for augmenting the existing facilities.

Illegal Trade in Rail Reservations

1313. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:

PROF. SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that despite assurances to root out to the evil, illegal trade in rail reservations in big cities of the country, the same is still continuing;

(b) whether it is also a fact that public were faced with great difficulties during the last summer season?

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF RAIL-
WAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN):

(a) to (c). Cases of blackmarketing of railway reservation by unauthorised agents, touts and other anti-social elements have come to the notice of the

Railway Administration specially during the period of summer rush when such activity always tends to reappear. As a result of intensified checks conducted to check the corrupt and irregular activities, a number of unauthorised persons, touts and other anti-social elements have been apprehended. Reservation arrangements have been streamlined and checks have been further intensified with the help of anti-fraud squads and Vigilance Organisation. To create an immediate impact, a special squad has been set up in the Railway Ministry to root out corruption in the booking and reservation of rail tickets. Special drives are being organised from time to time to ensure that genuine passengers are not put to any inconvenience in obtaining reservations.

Oil Exploration Surveys in Himalayas

1314. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the valleys in the Himalayas where oil exploration surveys are being conducted at present;

(b) the amount so far spent thereon; and

(c) whether any result has been achieved and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM
AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZ-
ERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) Currently three geological exploration parties are carrying out survey work in different parts of the Himalayas. One party is carrying out the survey in the Sulej valley region in Himachal Pradesh. The second party is working West of Jammu and the third party is deployed in Rangit valley, Darjeeling.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 30.83 lakhs was incurred on exploratory surveys in the Himalayas during the