

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is still under the consideration of the Ministry of Finance.

Calling Life-Saving drugs by generic names

107. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) It is a fact that calling life-saving drugs by their generic names can help in substantial reduction in the prices of these drugs; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering steps to enforce calling life-saving drugs by their generic names?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The prices of essential and life-saving drugs are controlled under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1979. The maximum selling prices without excise duty fixed for a drug is the same whether it is sold under a generic name or a brand name. Where the formulation is liable for excise duty, it does not attract excise duty if sold under a generic name. The view has been expressed that selling drugs under generic rather than brand names would reduce promotional expenditure and would thereby reduce the prices of the drugs.

(b) Government have issued a notification in January, 1981 amending the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, abolishing brand names on preparations containing any new drug as the single active ingredient. Brand names in respect of preparations containing any of the following five drugs as the single active

ingredient, have also been abolished under the said notification:

1. Analgin.
2. Aspirin and its salts
3. Chlorpromazine and its salts
4. Ferrous Sulphate
5. Piperazine and its salts.

These instructions would be effective from 1st August, 1981.

The notification also provides for the proper name of a drug being printed or written in a more conspicuous manner than the trade name, with immediate effect.

These steps have been taken in pursuance of the drug Policy contained in the Statement laid on the Table of the House on the 29th March, 1978.

Deterioration in standards of Hindi Feature Films screened by Delhi T. V.

2801. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether lately there has been a marked deterioration in the standards of Hindi feature films screened by the Delhi Doordarshan;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount paid for screening of such films at one T. V. Station and followed by screening at others; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the quality of such films?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI): (a) There is no deterioration in the standards of Hindi feature films screened by Delhi Doordarshan but it is a fact that there is a demand for newer and more popular films.