

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A.K. KISKU) :** (a) There is an overall shortage of doctors in the country, which is more acute in rural areas than in urban areas.

(b) Suitable remedial measures are being taken to encourage doctors to serve in rural hospitals and dispensaries. Increased emoluments by way of special allowance, better facilities of living and working accommodation with adequate drinking water, sanitary arrangements and all-weather approach roads to Primary Health Centres or Sub-Centres are contemplated.

A pilot Scheme for Mobile Training-cum-Service Hospitals has already been taken in hand. Under the scheme specialist teachers with interns and final year students from medical colleges will camp in rural areas and render voluntary service at selected Primary Health Centres. 50 Hospital beds will be attached to each mobile unit. At the selected District Hospitals it is proposed to recruit additional specialists and these specialists would man the District Mobile Hospitals which would render medical aid in rural areas.

#### **Drug Price Control Order**

**25. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND NON-FERROUS METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the "Drug Price Control Order" has come into force in all parts of the country ;

(b) if so, the retail prices of each drug before the promulgation of the Order in the States of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and the Union Territory of Delhi ;

(c) the price of each drug after "Drug Price Control Order" came into force in the States of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and the Union Territory of Delhi ; and

(d) how far the order has been able to bring down the prices of essential drugs ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND NON-FERROUS METALS (SHRI D.R. CHAVAN) :** (a) : Yes.

(b) and (c). There are thousands of drug formulations marketed by the various drugs manufacturing units and it is, therefore, not possible to furnish the required information in respect of each drug. A few examples of decreases and increases in the retail prices of popular drugs as a result of the issue of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970, are given in the pamphlet "Drugs Prices Control—Aims and Achievements" placed in the library of the Parliament. The retail prices as approved by Government are uniform throughout the country. Consumers have however to pay local taxes which vary from state to state.

(d) It is estimated that the community has benefited to the extent of about Rs. 20 crores in an annual turn-over of about Rs. 220 crores.

#### **Visit of General Westmoreland to India**

**26. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) who proposed the recent visit of General Westmoreland to India ;

(b) which authority is to bear the expenditure in this connection ;

(c) the details of the said visit ; and

(d) the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) :** (a) General William C. Westmoreland was invited by General Manekshaw, Chief of the Army Staff, with the approval of the Government of India, to visit India.

(b) The expenditure on travel within the country and hospitality during his stay in India was borne by the Government of India and the expenditure on travel from USA to India and back was borne by the Government of U.S.A.