

bly the estimates of construction of houses, submitted by applicants for house-building loans under the urban housing schemes of his Ministry and of Delhi Administration, exceed those estimates by as much as 100 per cent and even above on account of high and increasing costs of construction ; and

(b) if so, whether in view of the high costs of construction in urban areas particularly in Delhi, Government propose to revise the relevant schemes to increase the maximum admissible limits of loans so as to make them more realistic to match with increasing costs of construction and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) (a) No, Sir, not after the limits raised in 1968.

(b) Does not arise.

Chari Committees' Recommendations on Operation of Coal Mines

*1089 SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chari Committee made certain recommendations about the operation of coal mines in the country ;

(b) if so, what are those recommendations ; and

(c) the steps Government has taken to implement them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Probe into Tax Structure

*1090. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Economic and Scientific

Research Foundation had called for a thorough probe into the tax system in the country, particularly examining the scope for structural reform in the tax structure ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) (a) Dr. M. H. Gopal, Fiscal Consultant to the Foundation has prepared a report on the subject. These are, however, his own findings and not of the Foundation.

(b) Does not arise.

Economic working of Life Insurance Corporation of India

*1091. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the working of the Life Insurance Corporation of India could be made more economical ; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b). The L. I. C. as well as the Government are conscious of the need for utmost economy. Measures towards that end are therefore constantly under review.

High Prices of Drugs

*1092. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SHAH :

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a report in the Economic Times of the 13th March, 1970, under the caption, "Government blamed for high drug prices" ;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the reasons for high prices of drugs is the exorbi-