

(d) whether any time schedule has been fixed for noting down the meter reading by the DESU;

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(f) whether it is a fact that the meter reading has not been done in the stipulated period in most of the colonies in Delhi during the current year and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) According to the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU), no such complaint has been received by them.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a) above.

(c) Continuous efforts are being made by DESU to improve its consumer services which include strengthening of the distribution districts, installation of its own computer system with terminals in all district offices to replace manual billing operation etc.

(d) to (f) According to DESU, a monthly meter reading chart is prepared in every distribution district of DESU. Electricity connections having load of 5 KW and above are read every month and the meter reading of the connections having load below 5 KW is done once in two months. Normally meter reading are taken as per schedule. However, in some cases meter readings may not have been taken in the stipulated period due to administrative difficulties, premises being found locked, etc.

#### **Price decontrolled drugs**

2354. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 75 per cent of drugs being marketed in the country have been price decontrolled;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the past prices of price decontrolled medi-

cines went up by 100 per cent to 300 per cent and in some cases even upto 700 per cent;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there was no shortage of drugs which have been price decontrolled; and

(d) if so, what are the names of prices decontrolled drugs which were found in short supply during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Prices of some decontrolled medicines have gone up in the past.

(c) and (d) In general there was no shortage of price decontrolled drugs.

#### **Supreme Court directions on price fixation of drugs**

2355. SHRI BEKAL UTSAMI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 126 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th November, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court gave certain directions to Government in their judgements dated the 10th April, 1987 and 1st May, 1987 while dismissing the petitions of the drug companies against price fixation of drugs by this Ministry; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken in the light of each direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court while dismissing the writ petitions filed by various companies in their judgements dated 10-4-1987 and 1-5-1987 directed the Government to dispose of the review applications filed by the various drug companies against the prices fixed by the Government for concerned bulk drugs/formulations by giving a hearing to the

companies within a period of 8 weeks from the date of the judgement and thereafter to fix the prices within two weeks from the date of conclusion of the hearing. Hearing was given to the concerned companies as per the directions of the Supreme Court and further action has been taken as per due process of law. Some amounts have been recovered from some of the companies.

#### **Decontrolling prices of finished medicines**

2356. SHRI BEKAL UTSAMI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have exempted the imported finished medicines from price control under DPCO, 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that none of the imported medicines are based on drugs included for price control under categories I and II;

(c) if so, how exemption of imported formulations will help boosting of indigenous production;

(d) whether it is also a fact that prices of imported inactivated Rabies Vaccine, Measles Vaccine, MMR Vaccine Meningococcal Vaccine and other Vaccines and sera have gone up by 15 per cent to 50 per cent after the announcement of DPCO, 1987; and

(e) if so, what is the justification for these increases of prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir. All imported formulations falling under Categories I and II are price controlled.

(b) and (c) The importers of non-scheduled formulations are required to work-out their prices with only 50 per cent margin on the landed cost as in the case of scheduled formulations and to furnish the details of proposed retail price in Form-3 as per provisions of DPCO, 1987. Government is empowered to fix the price of

any formulation including non-scheduled formulation wherever found necessary.

(d) and (e) No intimation in this regard has been received from the importers of the vaccines referred to in the question.

#### **Production of tonics and vitamins**

2357. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of drug companies concentrated mainly on the production of tonics and vitamin preparations in the past and made huge profits instead of producing essential medicines;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that all major ingredients such as enzymes iron salts, vitamins, etc., going into the production of tonics and vitamin preparations have been excluded from price control;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have increased the mark up by 40 per cent on these preparations; and

(d) if so, how these steps will discourage the productions of tonics and vitamin preparations and encourage the production of essential medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) Product mix of same companies indicated higher proportion of these items than other medicines. With a view to discouraging this trend, rate of MAPE for the most of the essential drugs has been increased to encourage their production where as all vitamin combination formulations have been kept under price control, under the DPCO, 1987.

#### **Exclusion of drugs from price control**

2358. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government excluded certain drugs from the list