

were passed by the Supreme Court against the Government;

(b) if so, in how many cases such strictures were passed and what were the cases;

(c) what action Government have taken in each case;

(d) whether there is a great interferences by the courts to the Government working; and

(e) if so, whether any steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) While certain directions have been issued and observations made by the Supreme Court in its judgments during the last 2 months, it cannot be said that the court has passed what may be described as strictures against the Government of India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) This is a matter of opinion.

Scarcity of Life Saving Drugs

1183. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIB-ULLAH:

SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:
SHRIMATI RATAN
KUMARI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has recently been any scarcity of life saving drugs in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Shortages of specific brands of some essential and life-saving drugs

have been reported periodically from different places. In several of these cases, equivalents are reportedly available. For the week ending 18-4-1981, the reported shortages included those of Strepto Erbazide, Injection (M/s Mac Laboratories), Idifulvin Tablets (M/s IDPL), Angised Tablets, Alkeran Tablets, Leukaran Tablets (all of M/s Burroughs Wellcome), Dapsone Tablets (M/s Burroughs Wellcome and M/s Bengal Chemical & Pharmaceutical Ltd.) etc.

(c) Government monitors the availability of essential and life-saving drugs on the basis of the reports received from the State Drug Controllers, Zonal Offices of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation and Public complaints. The manufacturers of the brands reported in shortage as well as the manufacturers of the equivalent brands are advised to rush supplies to the areas from where shortages are reported. In addition, Government also arranges needed imports of canalised drugs to supplement indigenous availability thereof. Ad hoc allocations of some of the canalised drugs are also made to improve the availability of life-saving medicines based thereon.

9 P.M. News Bulletins Broadcast

1184. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question 1221 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 1981 and state:

(a) whether the details provided in respect of lines used at 9 p.m. news bulletins during the period from 1st to 14th January, 1981 can be reduced to the time allotted; if so, what will be the figures in respect thereof; and

(b) by whom, and how, the delination between Government policy and programmes and party matters is decided?