

**INCREASE IN DRUG PRICES  
AFTER STATUTORY  
CONTROL**

\*761. SHRI MTARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a steep rise in prices of some drugs after Government's announcement to control the drug prices;

(b) if so, to what extent the prices have gone up and in respect of which drugs;

(c) what are the reasons for the price rise; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to curb the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) to (d) Several drug manufacturers in the large and medium scale sector who issued new price lists on 31st July 1970 in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1970 increased the prices of some of their formulations. But after the promulgation of the amendment to the Order on August 18, 1970 the position is as follows. According to the latest information available, out of 5980 packs of formulations produced by large and medium scale sector manufacturers the price of 2039 stands reduced and those of 3049 stand at the level of May 15, 1970. There have been some increase in the case of 508 packs. Some firms have also introduced new packs numbering 384 with new prices. The latter two categories of packs have been taken up for an urgent review. Pending the completion of the review which is presently in progress, it is not possible to indicate precisely the extent to which the price; have gone up in the case of 508 oil packs and 384 new packs and type of drugs in those packs. It is the policy of Government that the prices of drugs should be fixed at a reasonable level with reference to cost of production and distribution and in accordance with the formula and principles laid down by the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970.

**ASSESSMENT OF TECHNICAL  
ASPECTS BY GEOLOGICAL  
SURVEY OF INDIA**

\*762. DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATOPADHYAYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no independent assessment and technical scrutiny of the performance of the Geological Survey of India has been made by Government and that reliance is being placed only on whatever reports are submitted by the technical officers of the Survey; and

(b) when the report of the Committee on Organisation of Scientific Research (COSR) will be submitted or whether it has already been submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): (a) It is true that so far no independent assessment and technical scrutiny of the performance of the Geological Survey of India has been made by the Government. The Estimates Committee (1969-70) of the Fourth Lok Sabha in their 126th Report has also drawn our attention to this point. This proposal to undertake independent assessment and technical scrutiny of the performance of Geological Survey of India is under consideration of the Government.

(b) The report of the Committee on Organisation of Scientific Research (COSR) is expected to be ready for submission to Government shortly.

**MEETING OF L.I.C. POLICY  
HOLDERS**

\*763. SHRI SANDA NARAYAN-APPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to convene the meetings of L.I.C. policyholders annually at the district and State levels; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As the L.I.C. has already set up a policyholders' Council for each of its Divisional Offices as envisaged in the LIC Act, 1956, there is no need