

gone up all round and that there is a case for upward revision of selling prices of ethyl alcohol. A reference was made to the Tariff Commission in October, 1964 in the matter. In the meantime, on the recommendation of the Government of U.P. and in consultation with the Tariff Commission, an interim price increase of one paisa per litre was allowed without prejudice to the recommendation of the Tariff Commission. The Report of the Tariff Commission since received is under consideration of Government.

In regard to pharmaceuticals, in which the retail prices of medicines are fixed at the level of prices as published in the price lists effective on the 1st April, 1963, there have been representations that Government should review the price control orders and that in the meantime, an *ad hoc* price increase ranging from six to fifteen per cent should be allowed. The reasons adduced are that the prices of raw materials, labour, various Central duties, packing materials have all increased. While the *ad hoc* price increase has not been agreed to, it has been decided that the recommendations of the non-official committee appointed in the Ninth Drugs Conference held on the 4th and 5th August, 1965 should be awaited and their recommendations considered. The individual applications received from time to time are examined in consultation with various authorities of Government.

SELECTION GRADE FOR ASSISTANTS

*616. SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently received any representation from Assistants' Association and Staff Councils to introduce a selection grade for Senior Assistants in the Secretariat, and to revise the present rules of seniority; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI. V. C. SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided that a Committee at Joint Secretary level should

examine the various matters agitated in the recent past in the Staff Councils of Ministries and Departments or by Service Associations of staff belonging to the Central Secretariat Services, and suggest remedial measures, where necessary.

BOYCOTT BY WEST BENGAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY TEACHERS

*617. SHRI D. THENGARI :
SHRI NIREN GHOSH :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal College and University teachers have decided to boycott all the University examinations this year to register their protest against the Union Education Ministry's decision to defer the revision of their pay-scales; and

(b) if so, what is the total number of students affected and what is the view of the Government of India in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information regarding the total number of students who will be affected by the decision of the teachers is not readily available.

The Government is of the view that it is entirely wrong for teachers to resort to direct action in any form. The Government has every sympathy for the difficulties and hardships of teachers and efforts are being made to find the financial resources required for giving in 1967-68 the necessary assistance to all the States to enable them to upgrade the salary scales of college teachers.

ALL INDIA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FIGURES

*618. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : Will the MINISTER OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the Year Book of Labour Statistics 1964, published by the International Labour Office,