

jects. Since it is a very important subject, if you allow half-an-hour discussion, I am ready to get the views of the hon. Members. Therefore, I will request you to allow half-an-hour discussion, so that I can get the views of the hon. Members.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Kindly allow half-an-hour discussion on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: It was a good question. It is a very important matter. I think, more discussions on this should take place. Now that the demand has come from the Minister himself, I will allow it. I would expect the Standing Committees of the Parliament to look into these matters. Though they may not be able to go into it fully yet they can go into it to some extent.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Drugs outside Price Control

*101. SHRI SOBHANĀDRESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several bulk drugs which do not fulfil the exclusion criteria are outside the price control;

(b) whether no review of the list of drugs, which are outside price control, has taken place during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether producers are charging exorbitant prices and resorting to over-invoicing; and

(e) the whole-sale price index of medicines in 1986-87 and at present?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c). The issues pertaining to exclusion/inclusion of drugs and other related matters, including the criteria for exclusion, have already been discussed on the 19th and 21st August, 1993 in the House. Based thereon, the exercise regarding Review of Drug Policy, 1986 is now in an advanced stage of finalisation.

(d) Price increases in decontrolled category are somewhat higher than in the controlled category. No case of overinvoicing of imports in the recent past has come to notice.

(e) The Whole-Sale Price Index of Drugs and Medicines for 1986 and as on 12.2.1994 are as under (Base 1981-82 = 188).

	Year 1986	Year 1994 (as on 12.2.1994)	% Increase
Drugs and Medicines	119.90	192.40	60.00