

(b) whether any irregularities have been found and if so, the nature thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to uplift the working of this Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) to (c). Government keeps close contact with the normal functioning of its Public Sector Undertakings through periodical reports and its nominees on the Board. This is so with the BEML too. Not only there have been no complaints of serious irregularities warranting an enquiry against this Company, its performance since the very first year of its functioning (1964-65) has been uniformly satisfactory. It has been earning profits and declaring dividends. Even, so, it is Government's constant endeavour to improve its functioning further.

**Fall in pending cases as a result of increase of Judges**

1172. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent increase in the number of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts has resulted into any appreciable fall in pending court cases;

(b) if so, broad details thereto; and

(c) if not, whether it is proposed to add further the number of new Judges on the Bench at the Supreme Court and the High Courts levels?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) and (b). The disposal of cases in the Supreme Court has gone up from 7,734 cases in 1976 to 17,095 cases in 1978. Although because of greatly enhanced institution in 1978 the total pendency has continued to increase the rate of increase of pendency in respect of regular hearing matters has decreased considerably

from 32.3 per cent in 1977 to 4.0 per cent in 1978.

Regarding the High Courts the figures for the entire year of 1978 are not yet available for all the High Courts. Figures for the first half of 1978 show that disposal was 2,18,933 compared to 1,83,942 during the corresponding period of 1977 and 1,80,679 during the corresponding period of 1976. Although, upto 30-6-1978 overall pendency in the High Courts had increased, the overall rate of increase in pendency declined from 8.4 per cent as on 30th June, 1976 to 3.5 per cent as on 30th June, 1977 to 2.3 per cent as on 30th June, 1978. Moreover, in respect of the eight High Courts for which figures are available upto 31-12-1978, namely, the High Courts of Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Patna and Punjab and Haryana, the pendency as a whole, which had gone up to 2,51,099 by 31-12-1977 had declined to 2,47,620 by 31-12-1978, in spite of increased institutions.

(c) Additions to Judge strengths will be made wherever necessary when proposals are received.

**Selection of Films for Seventh Film Festival**

1173. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the selection of the films for the seventh Film Festival is done by a special team with a well laid down procedure, or is it left to the individual participants; and

(b) whether the general film-going public was given the facility to purchase and see the films at the said festival and if so, facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) The selection of films for the Seventh International Film Festival of India was done by two selection committees, one for foreign

films and the other for Indian films. The selection was done according to a well laid-down procedure.

(b) The general film-going public was given the facility of purchasing tickets and seeing films of the Festival at 10 Theatres. The revenue from the sale of tickets is estimated at Rs. 29.70 lakhs.

#### High Prices of Drugs

1174. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the high and soaring prices of several drugs sold in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are taking steps to bring down and ra-

tionalize the price structure of the said drugs; and

(c) if so, broad details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) The Prices of drugs are statutorily controlled under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970. Prices once fixed by the Government cannot be increased by manufacturers without the prior approval of the Government except in the case of drug manufacturing units having sales turnover not exceeding Rs. 50 lakhs in formulations who enjoys certain exemptions under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970. Measures of stability achieved in the prices of drugs can be seen from the following movement of the Wholesale Price Index:—

Year	Wholesale Price Index (70-71—100 as base)	Percentage increase
1975-76 . . . . .	118.7	
1976-77 . . . . .	133.9	13% over 1975-76
1977-78 . . . . .	136.3	1.8% over 1976-77
April to Dec, 1978	136.16	Reduction by 0.14%

(b) and (c). The measures proposed to be taken to rationalize the price structure of drugs have been set out in the Statement on New Drug Policy which was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on the 29th March, 1978.

Government effected on December, 20/28, 1978, reduction in the prices of 352 packs of formulations of Sulpha-

guanidine, Doxycycline, Gentamycin, Chloramphenicol Powder, Oxytetracycline (its salts and derivatives), Phenobarbitone and Analgin, based on reduction in bulk drugs prices decided upon prior to March, 1978. These reductions have brought about substantial reduction in the prices of important branded formulations as indicated below:

Sl. No.	Name of the manufacturer	Name of the drug	Important Branded formulations whose price was reduced w.e.f. 20-12-1978	Percentage reduction n.
1	Pfizer . . . . .	Oxytetracycline, its salts and derivatives.	Terramycin	0.5% to 14%
2	L. . . . .	Doxycycline	Vivocycline	16% to 18%
3	Dolphin . . . . .	Doxycycline	Doxt	20%
4	I.D.P.L. . . . .	Sulphaguanidine	Sulphaguanidine	13% to 16%
5	Indian Schering . . . . .	Gentamycin	Genticym	10% to 43%
6	C. E. Fulford . . . . .	Gentamycin	Garamycin	10% to 41%
7	Parke Davis . . . . .	Chloramphenicol	Chlormycetin	1% to 9%