

**Bata Shoe Company, Philips India Ltd. and Hindustan Lever Ltd.**

**3756. SHRI ISHAQUE SAMBHALI:** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's share in Bata Shoe Company, Philips India Ltd., and Hindustan Lever Ltd. at present;

(b) how far these companies are working according to the terms of the Companies Act;

(c) whether there is any case pending against these companies before Government; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Increase in the number of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts**

**3757. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT:** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court and various High Courts;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) when are these appointments likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD): (a) to (c). We have advised State authorities to have a systematic review of the state of work in each High Court periodically and submit proposals to fix the

Judge strength from time to time, taking into account the institutions, disposals and arrears to be cleared. The Judge strength of the High Courts has thus increased from 245 on 1-1-1967 to 349 on 1-1-1978. Similarly, the Judge strength of Supreme Court has been refixed under article 124 at 14 as against 8 to begin with. At present, no proposal to increase the Judge strength is under consideration.

**Directors of Drug Companies**

**3758. SHRI K. S. CHAVDA:** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a few directors are common on the Boards of Directors of a large number of drug companies having more than 26 per cent foreign equity;

(b) if so, the names of such persons with their salaries and perquisites drawn from various companies and the names of those companies; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to check this trend in the drug industry which leads to monopoly and malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) A few Directors are common in some of the drug companies.

(b) The annual return, balance-sheet and profit and loss accounts, and the Directors report thereon published every year give the information about the names of the Directors and remuneration paid to them.

(c) In the interest of better corporate management, the Central Government will not ordinarily approve a persons appointment as Managing Director in two companies which are both of a large size and where it is felt that the same person may not adequately discharge the responsibilities of the second charge. For this purpose