

modernisation of existing plants. Some of the technologies for manufacture of urea, the only controlled fertilizer, that Indian Plants have adopted are:

- (i) TEC Process
- (ii) CO₂ Stripping Process
- (iii) Ammonia Stripping Process.

Abolition of Drug Price Control Order

3840. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGER:

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to abolish DPCO, if so, by when and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 5th March, 2001 under the caption, "Decontrolling of drugs may increase prices of medicines", if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this would create a drastic increase in price of essential life saving drugs; and

(d) what steps are being taken to keep the prices of drugs under proper check so as to make them available within the reach of common man?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) The Drugs Prices Control Orders are issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to implement the Policy in so far as price controls are concerned. No decision has been taken to do away with the price control regime over drugs and pharmaceuticals. Therefore, the question of abolishing the DPCO does not arise.

(b) Yes, Sir.

[20 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(d) The Drug Policy, as amended from time to time, is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices.

Fertilizer exporting countries

† 3841. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the chemical fertilizers exporting countries of the world;

(b) if so, which are those countries and which chemical fertilizers are being produced there;

(c) the cost of production of each of such fertilizers there; and

(d) whether the above cost of production is lower as compared to the average cost of production in India?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) Urea, DAP and MOP are the three main chemical fertilizers which are being produced and exported by several countries around the world. A list of major producing and exporting countries of these fertilizers is given in the table below:

Fertilizer	Fertilizer exporting countries
Urea	Belarus, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Canada, USA, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.