

[23 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether Government have prescribed some guidelines for participation of private sector in the production of urea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent Government have succeeded to attract participation of private sector in this regard; and

(d) whether their financial structure has been assessed in this regard; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) As per the Industrial Policy (Resolution) dated 24th July 1991, no licence is normally required for setting up/expansion of fertilizer plants. Entrepreneurs are free to set up fertilizer projects anywhere in the country subject to environmental clearance.

(c) The share of private sector was 89.48 lakh MT out of the total urea production of 198.30 lakh MT during the year 1999-2000.

(d) The financial structure of urea manufacturing plants, including the private sector plants, is assessed by the Government for fixation of Retention Price under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme.

Tests on Drugs

3020. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

PROF. A LAKSHMISAGAR:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tests have been recently carried out on certain commonly used drugs, used for cough and cold, to know the level of risk in the use of these drugs containing certain chemicals;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c)

No such tests have been carried out on commonly used drugs for cold and cough to assess the level of risk involved in drugs containing certain chemicals.

However, a drug named Phenylpropanolamine (PPA), an ingredient used in cough and cold preparations as decongestant has been assessed in United States of America for a reported linkage with increasing risk of haemorrhagic strokes in women. PPA is also used in weight loss preparation in USA. Based on the study report, FDA, USA advised consumers to stop taking drug products containing PPA and declared its withdrawal from the US market.

Since in India, PPA is used only in many cold and cough formulations, the position has been reviewed by the Expert Committee of the DTAB. This Committee concluded that the evidence of a link between haemorrhagic stroke and PPA is weak and is mainly associated with uses which are not yet licensed in the country a view similar to that of the Medical Control Agency, U.K. Therefore, the DTAB has recommended that syrup formulations containing PPA as an ingredient should not contain more than 12.5 mg/dose of PPA and tablets should not have more than 25 mg of PPA/tablet. It has also recommended that the daily dose should not be more than 50 mg for children and 100 mg for adults. Instructions in this regard are being circulated to all State Licensing Authorities to monitor its sale in the country.

Comparative production Cost of Chemical Fertilizers

†3021. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the production cost of chemical fertilizers in the country is higher than that at the international level;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.