

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): At present, only urea, which is the main nitrogenous fertilizer and constitutes about 80 per cent of the total fertilizer consumption in the country, is covered under the statutory price control. The sale price of urea in the country continues to be lower than the prices prevailing in the international market, as the controlled price is heavily subsidised by the Government.

Based on the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Fertilizer Pricing, the price and movement controls on phosphatic and potassic fertilizers were removed w.e.f. 25.8.1992. However, to cushion the impact of increase in the open market prices of these fertilizers, the Government is giving a special concession @Rs. 10.00 per tonne on the sale of indigenous DAP together with proportionate concession on complex fertilizers and single superphosphate (SSP). A concession @ Rs. 1000/- per tonne is also being given on Muriate of Potash (MOP), which is wholly imported.

R & D on drugs and pharmaceuticals

*27. **DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how much money is spent annually on Industrial R and D on drugs pharmaceuticals;

(b) whether there is a window of opportunity for drug firms to step in research without prohibitive capital costs; if so; the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that one of the reasons that the R&D function has been neglected in India is because of Indian Patent Laws; which recognise processes and not product; if so; the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that it has encouraged skill intensity in process engineering in the sector;

(e) whether it is also a fact that without adequate product recognition, the incentive to invest in R&D has been lacking; and

(f) if so; what are the details of steps Government have taken to step up overall increase of expenditure on R and D?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) The R and D expenditure incurred by the In-house R and D units in the drugs and pharmaceuticals sector during the last three years is reported to be of the following order:

1991-92	—Rs. 80 crores
1992-93	— Rs. 95 crres.
1993-94	— Rs. 125 crores.

(b) to (f) Investment in Research and Development (including basic research) in all sectors of industry; including pharmaceutical industry; is dependent on overall corporate policy of the companies engaged in the manufacture of various industrial products. Drug technology development has been identified as a thrust area and an Expert Committee has been constituted by the Department of Science and Technology for R and D in the drug industry. An Inter Ministerial Group has also been set up by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals to decide on measures to give further impetus to R and D in the drug sector.

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श्रमिकों को नियमित किया जाना

*28. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह :**
श्री जलस बोहल्लद :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा
करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों में
नैमित्तिक श्रमिकों को नियमित करने के
लिये कौन-कौन से मानदण्ड अपनाये जाते
हैं;