

(d) what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) M/s. Lupin Labs. could not commence basic stage production within the stipulated period due to various reasons like technology constraints etc. The relaxation period has therefore been extended till 31.3.1993, after which the company is expected to commence basic stage manufacture. Accordingly import of intermediates have been permitted during this period upto 31.3.1993.

(b) No Sir. The company was given import entitlement in 1992-93 based on the allocation fixed for them taking into consideration the current requirements.

(c) and (d) Some discrepancy in respect of imports of raw materials for exports of anti-TB drugs is stated to have been noted by the Department of Company Affairs. It is understood that further action in this regard is being taken by the Department of Revenue and the Officer of the CCI and F.

Insignificant incidentals as against actuals

1882. SHRI ABDUL SAMAD SIDDIQUI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the leader prices/ceiling prices for category II formulations are being notified with a view to help the manufacturers to take the higher prices from Government for the formulations;

(b) The reasons for allowing 8 per cent incidentals against actuals which are insignificant even to those formulators who use their own bulk drugs;

(c) whether it is a fact that producers are benefited by crores of rupees in this manner; and

(d) what is the position of rifampicin, trimethoprim, ibuprofen etc. where major producers of bulk drugs also use bulk drugs in their own formulations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Incidentals @ 8 per cent are allowed in cases of ceiling prices only and in other cases incidentals are allowed as per supporting documents subject to maximum of 8 per cent. Incidentals, are allowed to include in costing the expenses incurred on Central/State Sales Tax, freight, insurance, handling charges, purchase tax, entry tax, octroi etc. wherever applicable.

(c) No, Sir.

Restoration of fertilizer subsidy

1883. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restore fertilizer subsidy; if so, by when; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Nitrogenous fertilizers still continue to be subsidised through the Retention Price Scheme. However, based on the recommendations of the IPC on Fertilizer Pricing all phosphatic and potassic fertilizers were removed from price and movement control w.e.f. 25-8-1992. Certain concessions in price have also been offered to farmers in the purchase of decontrolled fertilizers.

Shortage of Vitamin 'C'

1884. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of Vitamin 'C' in the market and manufacturers are demanding large advances for supply thereof and charging premium thereon;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that Vitamin 'C' is being sold

in open market at twice the rates approved by Government;

(c) what action has been taken against the guilty under DPCO; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to identify and control the resources from which such material has come into the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) Though there were reports of shortage of Vitamin C in the past, the situation has since improved and off late there have been no major complaints in this regard.

Certain complaints of overcharging in the prices of bulk Vitamin C were received in the past but the same were not substantiated. These have been referred to the concerned State Drug Controllers, for necessary action under the DPCO '87.

Short supply of drugs

1885. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many drugs in the market are in short supply and prices of some of the drugs have gone up during the past few days;

(b) whether a number of drugs are not available in the market as the costs of raw material have increased following the Budget;

(c) if so, the details of the drugs which are in short supply in the market; and

(d) the steps taken to make them available at reasonable prices for the masses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Prices revision by the Government in case of price controlled formulations and by the manufacturers in case of non-scheduled formulations is an

on-going process. The number of formulations in various pack sizes and dosage forms runs into thousands.

Shortages do get reported from time to time but the scrutiny of these reports reveals that the shortages in majority of cases, are of particular brands only for which alternative brand or therapeutic equivalents are available.

(b) No instance of non availability of a drug because of high costs of raw material has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Ensuring abundant availability, at reasonable prices, of essential life saving and prophylactic medicine of good quality is the main objective of the existing Drug Policy. In the current exercise of review of the Drug Policy also, this objective has been kept uppermost in mind.

Ammonia/Urea plants based on Bombay High Gas

1886. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since approved the technical consultancy arrangements for Ammonia/Urea plants based on Bombay High Gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for engaging such foreign consultants; and

(d) the details of the technical competence of the consultancy firm and their relevance to Indian conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No technical consultancy agreement for ammonia/urea plants based on Bombay High gas has recently been submitted to Government for approval.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.