

(d) the nature of consumer awareness programme, if any, carried out in the State of Goa since the establishment of consumer fora at the State and District levels?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The number of cases pending in the National Commission and State Commissions in the country, **as on 03.08.2009**, as informed by National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), is as follows:

National Commission	State Commission	Total
8588	110610	119198

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Section 13 (3A) of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides that every complaint shall be heard as expeditiously as possible and endeavour shall be made to decide the complaint within a period of three months from the date of receipt of notice by opposite party where the complaint does not require analysis or testing of commodities and within five months, if it requires analysis or testing of commodities.

(d) In the State of Goa, a Multi-Media Consumer Awareness Campaign 'Jago Grahak Jago' is being carried out. Electronic and print Media are being utilized for the same. Grant-in-Aid has also been released to the State for carrying awareness activities. Song and Drama Division of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has also been involved in creating consumer awareness.

Funds have also been given through the Consumer Welfare Fund to educational institutions for the purpose of holding seminars/workshops/festivals etc. for consumer awareness activities.

#### **National pharma policy**

\*488. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government is working to revive a ministerial panel which was set up to finalise national pharmaceutical policy that has been hotly contested;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry had recommended constitution of a Group of Ministers (GoMs) to resolve differences that had delayed the policy;

(c) if so, whether the draft policy prepared after consultation with GoMs unveiled in 2006 contained proposal to bring all 354 essential drugs under price control;

(d) if so, whether the policy was opposed by pharmaceutical industry; and

(e) by when decision to set up a new GoMs would be taken and the final policy announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 was

prepared by this Department after extensive discussions with various stakeholders and in line with the declared objective of the Government in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM was constituted on 31.1.2007 and had held four meetings on 10.4.2007, 12.9.2007, 30.1.2008 and 30.4.2008.

In the meeting of GOM held on 12.9.2007, presentations were made separately by representatives of Pharmaceuticals Industry and Consumer organizations. During this meeting, GOM interacted with the representatives of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Associations (IDMA), Confederation of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry (CIPI) and Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). GoM also heard the views of NGOs namely Centre for Consumer Education, Research, Teaching Training and Testing (CONCERT), Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS), Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) and Voluntary Organization in Interest of Consumer Education (VOICE). The representatives of Pharmaceuticals Industry and Consumer organizations have expressed their perspective regarding the proposals made in the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 including Price Control. It has also been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 (subject to certain conditions and exemptions) in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995, GOM constituted on 31.1.2007 has not yet made its recommendations to the Cabinet.

After the formation of the new Government, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has recommended on 12.06.2009 for continuation of the Group of Ministers constituted to consider the National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006. The final decision on the issue of Pharmaceutical Policy will be possible after GOM takes a decision in this regard.

#### **Irregularities in fertilizer subsidy**

† \*489. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent of the subsidy being provided by the Ministry is given to the fertilizer producing companies and the remaining 20 per cent is given after the report from State Governments is received;

(b) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that most of the fertilizer producing companies receiving subsidies are non-existent; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.