

(c) what steps have so far been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R.C. RATH): (a) to (c) The production performance of the Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry is regularly being monitored and reviewed by the Government. The Public Sector Undertakings are making efforts to increase their capacity utilisation.

Drug Policy

160. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of drug policy of Government to achieve self-reliance; and

(b) the steps taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH): (a) and (b) One of the major objectives of the 1978 Drug Policy is the development of self-reliance in drug technology. With a view to achieving this objective it has been provided as follows:

(i) the foreign companies whose turnover in drug is in excess of Rs. 5 crores per annum shall be obliged to have research and development facilities within the country on which capital investment should be at least 20 per cent of their sales turnover as recurring expenditure on research and development facilities;

(ii) Foreign companies shall also be encouraged to offer quality control facilities to the small scale sector on a no-profit no-loss basis.

(iii) The import of technology for new bulk drugs by foreign companies will have to be on such parameters as may be determined by Government.

(iv) Foreign drug companies shall be required to undertake transfer of technology laterally to public sector units where national interests justify the setting up of additional capacity.

In the absence of adequate power under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act 1951 it has not been possible to implement the provisions at (i) and (ii) above. However, the provisions at (iii) are being implemented. There are about 70 R&D Centres recognised by Science & Technology Department for the Drug Industry.

Production of Life Saving Drugs

161. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of drugs has registered a significant increase in the recent past;

(b) if so, what is the corresponding reduction in the prices of the life saving drugs; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure quality and purity of the drugs produced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been overall increase in the production of drugs.

(b) Prices of number of bulk drugs and formulations have also been recently reduced by the Government. The major areas where prices have been reduced include reduction in prices of anti-TB formulations based on Rifampicin, formulations for the treatment of peptic ulcer based on Cimetidine and formulations based on Trimethoprim and Sulphamethoxazole.

(c) Quality control on the drugs is exercised under the Drugs and Cosmetics

Act, 1940. Before any drug is allowed to be marketed, clearance in regard to quality and standard is necessary prerequisite under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Drug Production Target

162. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production target of the drug and pharmaceuticals for Sixth Plan would be achieved;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remove the obstacles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH): (a) to (c) The Sixth Plan demand targets for various bulk drugs and formulations were anticipated on the basis of projected growth rates. In the light of actual consumption during the last three years, some of these projections are found to be over pitched while some others are under pitched. In order to arrive at more realistic demand targets on the basis of actual consumption, a mid-term review is being undertaken.

The following steps are being undertaken by the Government in order to step up the production of drugs in the country:

(1) A large number of industrial approvals have been granted and their implementation is closely monitored and steps taken to resolve problems if any, in implementation.

(2) Steps are being taken to increase the production of bulk drugs and formulations in the public sector by improving the capacity utilisation.

(3) The schemes for automatic growth, recognition of installed capacities

and the scheme for re-endorsement of higher capacities based on the best production performance have been extended to the drug industry, subject to certain conditions.

Uniform Price for Medicines

163. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved uniform pricing policy for medicines throughout the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such a step and the advantages expected from this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH): (a) and (b) The prices are fixed by the Government under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979, which extends to the whole of India. This ensures availability of medicines, at reasonable, and more or less uniform prices throughout the country.

Electoral Reforms

164. SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK:

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA;

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Committee consisting of Central Cabinet Ministers to consider electoral reforms in the country;

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

(c) the time by when the Committee is likely to submit its report to Government?