

total number of deaths due to pneumonia and meningitis during the period from 2001 to 2005.

(c) The anti-microbial resistance of different pathogen responsible for meningitis and pneumonia to different microbial agents has definitely increased in the last few years.

(d) Integrated Disease surveillance Project (IDSP) has been launched in 2004 by the Government to strengthen surveillance activities and to promote early detection of outbreak and to institute appropriate action for prevention and control of meningitis. Under the Reproductive Child Health (RCH) Programme, interventions in the form of Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood illness (IMNCI) have been envisaged for prevention of deaths due to acute respiratory infections, sepsis malnutrition etc. National Rural Health Management (NRHM) programme also aims for prevention and treatment of micronutrient deficiencies. Medical and Para-Medical staff is being trained for treatment of pneumonia in children under the age of five years. In addition, the immunization programme provides protection against six vaccine preventable diseases, some of which cause respiratory morbidity.

Increase of medicine prices due to Patent Act

†1249. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:
SHRI SITARAM YECHURY:

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

(a) whether there is any increase of prices of medicine in the last one year particularly after the Parliament passed Third Amendment to the Indian Patent Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof major brand-wise and the variation of price, region-wise;

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to control the spiraling of medicine prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under prices control and their prices are fixed /revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. These drugs have been kept under price control on the basis of criteria mentioned in Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986, announced in September 1994. During the year 2005-2006, in respect of Scheduled formulations, NPPA has decreased prices of 39.49% packs, fixed prices for the first time in respect of 46.99% packs and there was no change in prices of 3.85% packs.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The NPPA monitors the prices of medicines as per monthly Retail Audit Reports of ORG-IMS Research Pvt. Ltd.

Cheaper drugs for AIDS

1250. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government to ensure availability of expensive drugs at lower prices to AIDS patients in the country; and

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to reduce the cost of HIV testing for lower-income people, comprising the high-risk groups in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Anti-retroviral drugs used for treatment of AIDS are currently being given free of cost to nearly 35 thousand patients through 54 ART centres established in the country. 44 more ART centres are being set up during the current year to cover more patients for treatment of AIDS.

(b) Kits for diagnosis of HIV are being procured and supplied to state as commodity assistance. Nearly 60 lakh kits are being procured during