

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. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

A Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 has been prepared. The Policy proposes, *inter alia*, limits for trade margin on medicines. Special attention is being given to the prices of medicines, which are required on a life long basis so as to make their prices reasonable. After the finalization of the Cabinet note on the Policy, it would be placed before the Cabinet for approval.

NIPER in Gujarat

2292. SHRI SURYAKANTBHAI ACHARYA:

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal to the Central Government for setting up an institution like National Institute for Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) near Ahmedabad and the Central Government have decided in principle, to set up such an institute or its branch in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any time-bound programme has been framed for setting up such an institution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Presently there is an institute named National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) located at Mohali, Punjab. NIPER has been set up by an Act of Parliament on 26.6.1998. It is the first National level institute of its kind in India in the field of pharmaceutical sciences. It provides Doctoral and PG degree courses in the field of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Realising the need for setting up of more NIPER like institutes in India a committee consisting of experts from NIPER was constituted by

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RAJYA SABHA

Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals. The Committee has submitted its report in January, 2006 and it has recommended for the setting up of NIPER like institutes at few other locations in India. The Committee has recommended that the concerned State Governments should provide 70 to 100 acres of land free of cost for this purpose. At present discussions are going on with Governments of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Assam and Gujarat. Recently a team of officer from Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and experts from NIPER, Mohali has visited Ahmedabad to see the site proposed by Government of Gujarat and also to discuss other details like facilities and support to be provided by the State Government.

(c) After getting feed back from the concerned State Governments matter would be taken up further in regard to approaching Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance and also amendment of existing Act on NIPER, etc. No final decision has been taken in this respect as yet by the Government.

Gas for chemical factories

2293. MS. MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how many fertilizer plants of the country are getting gas as their feedstock;

(b) what per cent of requirement is met by gas by these fertilizer plants;
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(c) whether it is a fact that there is a wide gap between actual demand and actual supply and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when fertilizer companies would have self-sufficiency of gas as their feedstock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) A total number of 12 fertilizer companies are receiving gas and utilizing gas as feedstock at 14 locations. The supply of gas was 27.664 MMSCMD during 2005-06 against the requirement of 34.608 MMSCMD. Thus, 79.9 per cent of requirement of gas was met.