

Price control for all essential medicines

1364. SHRI R.C. SINGH:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to bring all essential medicines sold in the country under price control; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court in its interim order dated 10.3.2003 in SLP(C) No. 3668/2003 directed the Government, inter alia, to "consider and formulate appropriate criteria for ensuring essential and life saving drugs not to fall out of price control and further directed to review drugs which are essential and life saving in nature till 2nd May, 2003". As per the directions of the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare reviewed the National Essential Drugs List 1996 and brought out the National List of Essential Medicines, 2003 (NLEM 2003) Keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court it has 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 NLEM 2003 (subject to certain conditions and exemptions) in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drug (Price Control) Order, 1995. The Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy was submitted to the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007. It was decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). The GOM had held four meetings but did not finalise its recommendations to the Cabinet. After the formation of the new Government, the GOM has been reconstituted.

GoM on Bhopal Gas Tragedy

1365. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to study the judgement of the Chief Judicial Magistrate on the issues relating to Bhopal Gas Tragedy has submitted its report;