

(a) the details of Indian pharmaceutical companies taken over by foreign companies in the 2009-10;

(b) whether there is any increase in the price of the drug produced by these companies after the takeover; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to control the prices of drugs increased subsequent to these takeovers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) Some Indian pharmaceutical companies including M/s Piramal Healthcare have been taken over by foreign companies.

(b) to (c) The National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes/revises the prices of 74 bulk drugs, specified in the First Schedule of Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO), 1995 and the formulations containing any of these Scheduled drugs. The prices of Scheduled formulations are fixed or revised in accordance with the paragraph 7 of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any Scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA. Prices of Non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. However, NPPA monitors the prices of all formulations based on the reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by the individual manufacturers. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of formulation in public interest. Monitoring of prices is an on-going process.

#### **Bachelor of Rural Health Care Course**

2518. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) by when the proposed Bachelor of Rural Health Care Course is going to be finalized;

(b) whether the Medical Council of India (MCI) has prepared a syllabus for this course;

- (c) if so, the details of the course proposed;
- (d) whether the course is to be run by the Central Government or State Government or is to be taken up under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM);
- (e) whether it is a fact that Indian Medical Association (IMA) has raised some objections to the proposal; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and whether these objections have been addressed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (d) In order to tackle acute shortage of doctors in rural areas, the Central Government has been exploring various options, one of which is to introduce a short term rural medical course. The proposed course to be called Bachelor of Rural Health Care will be of 3-years duration with 6-months of internship and is proposed to be taught in the District Hospitals and is especially designed for those who have completed their schooling and passed their qualifying examination from notified rural areas of the district. These professionals will be posted at the Sub-Centers.

- (e) Yes.
- (f) All concerns including those expressed by Indian Medical Association will be considered by Central Government before finalizing the proposal.

#### **Disinvestment of equity in PSUs**

2519. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that "Maharatna" and "Navratna" Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) are empowered for Disinvestment of equity held by them in their respective subsidiaries;
- (b) if so, how many Public Sector undertakings (PSUs) have so far utilized above mentioned power during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether such empowerment is also available in respect of disinvestment of equity in their joint ventures;