

Psychotropic drugs. The control over these drugs is exercised under Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 as well as under the Narcotics Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985.

(b) In view of the insistence of certain documentary requirements under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Rules there was temporary dislocation in the supply of these drugs. However, Ministry of Finance has issued necessary amendment to NDPS Rules *vide* notification GSR 104 (E) dated 25.2.2005. There is no shortage of these drugs now,

(c) The National Pharmacovigilance Programme has been launched in November, 2004 to capture data on adverse drug reactions in the country. This programme is not limited to psychotropic drugs.

#### **Action Plan on Price Control**

†1930. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of drugs are likely to increase due to new patent system;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to formulate any action plan to control the prices of drugs so that consumers are not effected adversely due to production patent system;

(c) whether Government have approached various drug companies in this regard;

(d) whether Government are contemplating to formulate independent price index regarding price assessment of patented drugs; and

(e) if so, by when and the full details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (e) Since product patent regime has come into effect from 1st January, 2005 it may be too early to know the effect of the same on prices. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) however, as not received any report of abnormal increase in the prices of drugs.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[18 March, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

Majority of drugs already in Indian market including those in the "National List of Essential Medicines 2003" are off patent and their availability would not get effected by the new product patent regime.

Drug prices control measures are WTO compatible and the Government will continue to have powers to regulate the prices of medicines sold in the country. Provisions of "compulsory licensing" and "parallel imports" in the Patent Amendment Ordinance 2004 will help keep the prices of patented medicines within the common man's reach.

### **Protecting medicinal plants**

†1931. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared that an action plan to protect the medicinal plants linked with indigenous unani system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that multinational companies are getting Indian medicinal plants patented on a large scale; and

(d) the number of medicinal plants got patented by his Ministry and the number of Indian medicinal unani plants got patented by the foreign companies during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government has set up a Medicinal Plants Board with a view to co-ordinate all matters relating to medicinal plants, including drawing up policies and strategies for conservation, proper harvesting, cost-effective cultivation, research and development, processing, etc. in order to protect, sustain and develop this sector. The Schemes implemented by the Board provides for financial support for promotional activities and for captive cultivation of medicinal plants used in preparation of drugs under traditional systems of medicine including the Unani system.

(c) and (d) Plants and the knowledge about their medicinal usage in the public domain can not be patented. However, it is noticed that some individuals and companies in some of the foreign countries have been

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.