

proposal by consortium of Gas Authority of India Limited/Coal India Limited/Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) has been received expressing intent to put-up fertilizer plant at FOIL Talcher. Recommendations of ECOS alongwith the intent of PSUs are under examination.

- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

Rise in prices of life saving drugs

3437. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that prices of life saving medicines, particularly regarding cancer, heart diseases, etc. are rising every other day and have gone out of the reach of common people;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry is considering to take steps to bring down the prices;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The NPPA enforces the prices of all formulations including imported scheduled formulations which are under price control. No person can sell any formulation (medicine) of price controlled category to a consumer at a price exceeding the price notified/approved by the NPPA/Government. In case a company is found selling at prices higher than the price notified/approved by the NPPA, action is taken against them as per the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95).

Anti Cancer medicines and medicines for heart diseases are not covered under the DPCO, 95. In respect of drugs - not covered under the DPCO, 95, i.e. non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers themselves fix the prices without seeking the approval of NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed by the manufacturers depending on various factors like the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of excipients, cost of R&D, cost of utilities/packing material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc. However, NPPA monitors the prices of non-scheduled formulations on the basis of data from ORG-IMS (about 60000 packs are analysed every

month). Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum (20% before 1.4.2007) 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 non scheduled formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process. So far, companies have reduced prices of 65 non-scheduled formulation packs after intervention by NPPA. Further NPPA has fixed the price of 28 non-scheduled formulations under para 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995.

(c) to (e) The Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 which proposes to bring the essential medicines as contained in the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 under price control (subject to certain conditions and exemptions), in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the DPCO, 95, was prepared in consultation with all the stake holders. This proposal is at present before the Group of Ministers (GOM).

Pursuing Bhopal gas tragedy case in US courts

3438. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided not to follow up the Bhopal Gas Tragedy case in the US courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government would not even pursue for extradition of Anderson from US to stand trial in Indian courts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) A case (Sajida Bano vs UCC) was filed by Bhopal Gas Victims and several activist organizations in a US Court in 1999. Union of India was not a party in the case. Union of India (UOI) and Government of Madhya Pradesh had filed No Objection Certificate (NOC) in the US Court. The case was finally dismissed in October, 2005.