

(b) whether Secretary of Department of Pharmaceuticals is heading the steering committee of new NIPERs;

(c) whether the steering committee of new NIPERs is performing the functions of BoG;

(d) if so, the legality for actions of issue of degrees given in NIPER, Kolkata and Ahmedabad and starting of Ph.D. courses; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to correct the anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) In terms of section 4(3)(a) of the NIPER Act, 1998 as amended from time to time, the Chairperson shall be an eminent academician, scientist or technologist or professional.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Government has established six new NIPERs at Kolkata, Hajipur, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Rae Bareilly and Guwahati. Courses are being conducted with the help of Mentor Institutes like the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Kolkata, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad, Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow, Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences (RMRIMS), Patna, B.V. Patel Pharmaceutical Education & Research Development Centre, (PERD) Ahmedabad, and Guwahati Medical College and Hospital, Guwahati, which are Institutes of repute. The Cabinet has approved that pending the constitution of Board of Governors of New NIPERs, an Apex Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals would oversee the functioning of the new NIPERs. New NIPERs have not commenced admission to Ph.D courses.

Revival plan for IDPL and Hindustan Antibiotics Limited

3434. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

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

(a) whether his Ministry is actively considering to implement the revival plan for IDPL and Hindustan Antibiotics Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely time-frame by which the plan will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Government approved the Rehabilitation Scheme of HAL on 9th March 2006 which *inter alia* involves Cash Infusion of Rs. 137.59 crore and waiver of past loans and interests thereupon to the extent of Rs. 259.43 crore (as on 31.3.2005). Entire cash infusion has already been released to HAL and past loans and interests thereupon also already been waived off.

Further, Government is examining the issue of revival of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL). Details in this regard have not been finalized.

(c) Does not arise.

Recommendations for fertilizer subsidy

3435. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is satisfied with the extant arrangements for administration of fertilizer subsidy under the subsidy regime;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Twelfth Finance Commission had recommended developing of an alternative instrument for release of fertilizer subsidy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the recommendation of the Finance Commission have been accepted by the Government; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Yes. However various suggestions on further improvements are under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) The Twelfth Finance Commission regarding fertilizer subsidy in its report observed that "There is a clear need to develop an alternative instrument so that the volume of subsidy is small and its benefits better targeted. The present mechanism needs to be phased out as soon as possible." (para 3.17).