

### National pharmaceutical policy

†1755. SHRI BALAVANT alias BAL APTE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group of Ministers constituted to consider the draft national pharmaceutical policy has finalized it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the control on prices of essential medicines has been adversely affected due to delay in finalisation of the policy; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO 1995), the prices of 74 bulk drugs included in its First Schedule and the formulations containing any of these drugs are controlled. NPPA/Government fixes or revises prices of the Scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any Scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA/Government.

In respect of drugs not covered under the DPCO, 1995 i.e. non-Scheduled drugs/the manufacturers are at liberty to fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed depending on the various factors like the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of excipients, cost of Research and Development, cost of utilities/ packing material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum (20% before 01.04.2007) 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 the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has informed that as per the Wholesale Price Indices released by the Economic Adviser's office of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry,

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government of India, it has been observed that the increase in prices of medicines has been generally lower than that for all commodities.

#### **Bhopal gas tragedy memorial**

†1756. MISS ANUSUIYA CUKEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a proposal of Rs. 50 crore for raising a world class Bhopal Gas Tragedy memorial at Union Carbide premises, Bhopal;

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon by Government; and

(c) if not, by when is proposal would be approved and the likely time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) A proposal for construction of a memorial at a cost of Rs. 70 crore was received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in December, 2005. The Government of Madhya Pradesh was advised to approach the Planning Commission directly for funds. The Planning Commission approved one time Additional Central Assistance of Rs.10.00 crore to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for this purpose in the year 2006-07. A proposal for construction of Bhopal memorial with an estimated expenditure of Rs.116.18 crore was received again from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in November, 2009. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has again been advised to take up the matter directly with Planning Commission for required funds.

#### **Imposition of fine on companies**

†1757. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies which have concealed information to get licence or did not start service on time;

(b) the names of the companies among them which have been served notice by the Department of Telecommunications;

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