

undertake cost-cutting measures on their own to be competitive. Therefore the aim of change in subsidy policy from RPS to NPS was not capacity addition and incentivize urea production. To increase domestic production of urea and capacity of urea units, the Government has announced a separate policy/scheme for new investment in urea sector and off take of urea from joint venture abroad on 4th September 2008 which is aimed at revamp, expansion, revival of existing urea units and setting up of Greenfield/Brownfield projects.

Variation in the prices of same medicines

2679. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that there is a great variation in the prices of same medicines manufactured by different companies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to ensure the availability of quality medicines at reasonable and uniform prices in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95), the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. Under the provisions of DPCO, 1995, no person can sell any scheduled formulation (medicine) to a consumer at a price exceeding the price notified/approved by NPPA. Therefore, there cannot be any price variation in cases of Scheduled drugs/medicines.

In respect of drugs not covered under the DPCO, 95 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufactures fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed 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. Since there is no control on the launch price of non-scheduled medicines it leads to price variation in the prices of similar medicines sold under different brands.

As a part of price-monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of IMS Health and the information furnished by individual manufactures are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-scheduled formulations. 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 the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

Based on monitoring of prices of non-scheduled formulations, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 30 formulation packs under paragraph 10(b) and companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 65 formulations packs. Thus in all, prices of 95 packs of non-scheduled drugs have got reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA.

NPPA is entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the availability of drugs and to identify shortage, if any, and to take remedial steps to make the drugs available. NPPA is carrying out this responsibility mainly through monthly field reports from the State Drugs Controller and other available information. As and when the reports for shortage of particular drug(s), in any part of the country are received, the concerned company is asked to rush the stock and to make the drugs available.

Further, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has launched 'Jan Aushadhi Campaign' with the objective of making available medicines at affordable prices for all. Under this campaign less priced quality unbranded generic medicines are being made available through 104 Jan Aushadhi Stores which are presently operational in the States/UTs of Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Chandigarh and Delhi.

Loading of language software

2680. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to make loading of language software in all computers of the Government Department/Agencies, compulsory;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) Department of Official Language, Government of India *vide* its O.M. No. I2015/12/84-OL(TC) dated 30.5.1985 has recommended that all the offices of the Central Government should purchase only bilingual (Hindi — English) computers, word processors and teleprinters.

Local call facilities between Delhi, Dehradun and Chandigarh

2681. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: