(b) if so, whether task force has submitted its report to Government; and

(c) if so, when the Government has received the report and by when its recommendations would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Government has constituted a Task Force on transfer of direct subsidy in the case of fertilizers LPG & Kerosene under the chairmanship of Shri Nandan Nilekani, Chairman, UIDAI on 14th February, 2011. The Task Force is to recommend an implementable solution for direct transfer of subsidies on kerosene, LPG and fertilizers to the intended beneficiaries. This includes, inter-alia, identification of and suggestion for the required changes in the existing system, processes & procedures, IT frameworks and supply chain management. The task force is also to oversee and evaluate the implementation of the solutions proposed on pilot basis.

(b) The Task Force has submitted its Interim Report to the Government on 5th July, 2011 and it can be seen in the Finance Ministry's website (finmin.nic.in).

(c) The Task Force is in the process of having discussions and carrying out pilot studies. As and when the report is received, its recommendations would be considered for implementation by the Government.

Pharmaceutical pricing policy

†1279. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 2002, Supreme Court had directed Government to formulate price policy of medicines on new grounds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any pharmaceutical pricing policy has been formulated in this regard; and

(d) if so, the date of formulation of the policy and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court in its interim order dated 10.3.2003 in SLP(C) No.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

3668/2003 directed the Government, inter alia, to "consider and formulate appropriate criteria for ensuring essential and life saving drugs not to fall out of price control and further directed to review drugs which are essential and life saving in nature till 2nd May, 2003". As per the directions of the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare reviewed the National Essential Drugs List 1996 and brought out the National List of Essential Medicines, 2003 (NLEM 2003). Keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court it has been proposed in the Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 which is at present before the Group of Ministers for a decision, that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the NLEM 2003 (subject to certain conditions and exemptions) in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

(c) and (d) The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006 was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GoM). The GoM was constituted on 31.1.2007 by the Cabinet Secretariat. The GoM has not yet submitted its recommendation.

Dependence on import of chemical fertilizers

†1280: SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the dependence on import is on the rise to meet the demand of chemical fertilizers, during recent years in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Ministry thereto;

(c) whether any measures have been explored to end the dependence on import in order to maintain supply of chemical fertilizers in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the measures explored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The production of fertilizers in the country is not sufficient to meet the indigenous requirement. The imports of fertilizers in any year depend on the gap between assessed demand and indigenous production of these fertilizers in that year. Urea is the only fertilizer under statutory price control and it is imported for direct agriculture use on Government account through

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.