

associated medicines under price control. No time-frame can be given as the views of all the concerned stakeholders which are received have to be examined and concerned Ministries/Stakeholders consulted.

**Stake of Government in fertilizer production units**

†1903. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

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

(a) the details of necessary steps being taken by the Ministry to increase the efficiency of the fertilizer units of public and co-operative sector under the Ministry;

(b) whether any proposal to reduce the stake of Government capital in fertilizer production units of above public and cooperative sector is under consideration of the Ministry, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, by when concrete steps would be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) As per the Government of India policy of 8th March, 2007 regarding New Pricing Scheme (stage-III) for urea manufacturing units, the respective pre-set energy consumption norm of each urea unit during stage-II of NPS or the actual energy consumption achieved during the year 2002-03, whichever is lower, will be recognized as the norms for Stage-III of NPS and saving on energy over the pre-set norms will be paid as per the basic rate of the weighted average of feed/fuel used during stage-III of NPS.

(b) and (c) After the enactment of Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act 2002, IFFCO has repatriated entire Government of India equity and at present there is no Government stake in IFFCO. Similarly the Government equity in the other Cooperative Society, KRIBHCO, has also reduced to 48.36% of the total equity after gradual repatriations of Government equity by KRIBHCO. So far PSUs are concerned, there is no such proposal under consideration to reduce the Government stake.

**Lowering the cost of medicines**

1904. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court has directed the Government that its policy on controlling prices of essential drugs should be aimed at lowering the cost of medicines and not raising it;

(b) if so, response of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that if formulation ceiling prices are not based on the bulk drug-prices, then Government would end up legitimizing overpricing; and

(d) the measures Government is taking to make medicines available to the poor people at affordable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 11.10.2011 had directed the Secretaries of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Department of Pharmaceuticals to file their affidavits within four weeks indicating therein as to within what time the revise list of National list of Essential Medicines (NLEM) will be added in Schedule-I of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995.

(b) Department of Pharmaceuticals in their affidavit informed the Hon'ble Court that the Department is actively working on finalizing of policy in which the criteria for brining NLEM, 2011 and associated medicines under price control will be considered.

(c) and (d) As per the exciting policy, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)/Government fixes or revises prices of 74 scheduled drugs and formulations containing any of these bulk drugs as per the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO' 95). The bulk drug price is also taken into consideration while fixing/revising the prices of these schedule drugs/formulations. No person can sell any scheduled drug/formulation (medicine) of price controlled category to a consumer at a price exceeding the price notified/approved by the NPPA/Government.

In respect of drugs - not covered under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufactures fix the prices by themselves. As a part of price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. The monthly report of ORG IMS (now renamed as IMS Health) and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, subject to prescribed conditions, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which 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.