

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) with Secretary (Fertilizers) as Chairperson and representatives of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Department of Expenditure, Planning Commission and Department of Agricultural Research and Education as members to recommend subsidy rates for various nutrients contained in the Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers covered under the Nutrients Based Subsidy Policy for a final decision by the Government every year.

The Committee also considers and recommends inclusion of new fertilizers under Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme.

Benefit of duty reduction to consumers

3916. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pharmaceutical companies did not pass the benefits of reduction in excise duty rates to consumers, despite instructions of Government and overcharge crores of rupees from them;

(b) if so, the details of instructions issued by Government in the matter;

(c) whether there is any proposal to initiate criminal proceedings against the manufacturers of pharmaceutical products who did not pass on the benefits of duty reduction to consumers; and

(d) the steps taken by the NPPA to review its price monitoring mechanism to make it effective in timely detecting such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Direct subsidy to farmers

3917. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: