

Vocational colleges in Odisha

*390. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from Government of Odisha for setting up 400 new Vocational Junior Colleges and to strengthen 231 existing Government Vocational Junior Colleges; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Higher Secondary Education, a proposal was received from the Government of Odisha for setting up of 400 new Vocational Junior Colleges and to strengthen 231 existing Government Vocational Junior Colleges in the financial year 2011-2012. The proposal was considered by the Project Approval Board (PAB) in its meeting held on 07.02.2012 and the State Government was requested to revise its proposal as per the norms of the Scheme. Revised proposal from the State Government has since been received on 24.07.2012 for strengthening 187 existing Government Vocational Junior Colleges.

Exorbitant prices of patented medicines

*391. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has evolved any mechanism to control prices of exorbitantly priced patented medicines to make them more affordable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) further steps taken by Government in the matter; and

(d) the difference between the Reference Pricing System and the Negotiated Pricing Model?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Patented Drugs are not defined in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). The Indian Patents Act as amended in 2005 contains provisions for issue of Compulsory License for patented drugs. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion had informed that the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks has granted compulsory license under Section 84 of the Patents Act (as amended in 2005) to a drug manufacturing company, M/s Natco Pharma Ltd. for manufacturing of an anti-cancer drug "NEXAVAR", for which patent is held by M/s Bayer Corporation of USA.

(d) A Committee, which was looking into the issue of Price Negotiation mechanism of Patented Drugs have mentioned in its report that in case of reference pricing the prices of the product are fixed on the basis of the prices in other similarly