

'Evergreening' of drugs by multinational companies

1449. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many multinational companies are trying, by hook or crook, to keep 'evergreening' of a drug class;
- (b) if so, how Government is countering such companies and drugs;
- (c) whether there are any such instance; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Indian Patents Act, 1970(as amended in 2005) have enough safeguard to see that such type of evergreening of medicines do not happen.

- (c) No such instance has come to the notice of the Government.
- (d) In view reply to (c) above, does not arise.

Acquisition of pharma companies by MNCs

1450. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the acquisition of some pharma companies by MNCs;
- (b) whether the Ministry has examined the impact of such acquisitions on the prices of medicines in future and also on the consumers; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Department of Pharmaceuticals had requested Department of Commerce to make an appropriate assessment on the issue of recent takeovers/acquisitions of domestic pharmaceutical industries so that the required policy change to safeguard our general sectoral interest could be taken.

The Department of Commerce had entrusted the work of study on the recent taken over of domestic pharma industry to Ernst & Young. Ernst & Young have since submitted their report to Department of Commerce. Department of Commerce has informed that the report has recommended continuation of the current FDI policy in pharmaceutical sector.

(c) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion issued Press Note No. 3 (2011 Series) dated 8.11.2011 amending the existing FDI policy under which 100% FDI was permitted through automatic route. As per Press Note 3 (2011 Series) issued by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion on 08.11.2011:

- (i) FDI, upto 100%, under the automatic route, would continue to be permitted for greenfield investments in the Pharmaceuticals sector.
- (ii) FDI upto 100%, would be permitted for brownfield investment (*i.e.* investments in existing companies), in the pharmaceuticals sector, under the Government approval route.

Prices of medicines in India and other countries

1451. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the prices of medicines in the country compared with that in the developed countries;
- (b) the rate of increase in prices of medicines in the country and other countries during the last three years; and
- (c) in what way price control in India compares with that in other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Department of Pharmaceuticals and National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) have not conducted any such comparative study.

- (b) and (c) In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.

Selection of Registrar, NIPER, Mohali

1452. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: