

**'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.