

(a) whether it is a fact that the increasing demand of fertilizers requires expansion of production capacity of fertilizers in the country rather than importing them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to take suitable steps to enhance the installed capacity of production of fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) At present out of total demand of 300 LMT of urea, approximately 70% of total requirement of urea is met by indigenous production (220 LMT). The Government is considering a New Investment Policy - 2012 which is likely to add an additional urea capacity of 70 to 80 LMT per annum by 2016-17. So far as P&K fertilizers are concerned, the country is fully dependent on imports in potash sector and to the extent of 90% in phosphatic sector either in form of finished fertilizers or its raw material/intermediates.

Takeover of Indian companies by MNCs

2369. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that recent takeovers of Indian companies by MNCs could increase the possibility of other takeovers of Indian companies which would have impact on the Indian health care scenario as well as on pricing and availability of medicines in the country;

(b) whether Government is planning to bring down the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap in existing pharmaceutical ventures; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) With a view to examine the issues involved in a broader perspectives, Planning Commission had with the approval of the Hon'ble Prime Minister constituted a High Level Committee (HLC) under the

Chairpersonship of Shri Arun Maira, Member (Industry), Planning Commission to consider all the relevant aspects. Based on an analysis done by National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority, the Department of Pharmaceuticals submitted its comments to Shri Arun Maira committee. In this, we have Stated that it would be reasonable to conclude that there is no substantive factual proof for increase in prices of drugs due to acquisitions.

(b) and (c) The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion who are nodal Department of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), has informed that the policy for allowing FDI, upto 100% in existing companies, in the Pharmaceuticals sector, under the Government approval route, was introduced *vide* Press Note 3 of 2011, dated 08.11.2011. This provision has since been incorporated under "Circular 1 of 2012–Consolidated FDI Policy", effective from 10.04.2012.

Import of active pharmaceutical ingredients

2370. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and status of various issues till date that have been deliberated by the Inter Ministers Committee formed as per recommendations of the 45th Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than 80 per cent of active pharmaceutical ingredients are being imported from China by the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to upgrade the infrastructure, documentation as per WHO and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) of the Small and Medium Pharmaceutical industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No Inter Ministers Committee was formed as per the recommendations of the 45th Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health. However, a High Powered Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee formed by the Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Pharmaceuticals) to look into the matters of implementation of Government commitment to provide quality medicines at affordable prices has finalized its recommendations. The various recommendations of the Committee pertaining to the