

Rs. 5,11,029 crore respectively. During this period credit flow to small and marginal farmers was Rs. 1,22,654 crore, Rs. 1,67,739 crore and Rs. 2,27,835 crore respectively which is 32%, 36% and 45% of the total loan disbursed to the farmers during these years.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken several measures to improve credit flow to small and marginal farmers. These measures, *inter-alia*, includes fixation of annual targets for improving agricultural credit flow, provision of crop loans upto Rs. 3.00 lakh @ 4% per annum to such farmers who repay their loan as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks, extension of benefit of interest subvention scheme to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period upto six months for storing their produce in warehouses against negotiable warehouse receipts, collateral free loan upto Rs. 1.00 lakh, implementation of revival package for short term cooperative credit structure in the country etc.

Price difference between generic and branded medicines

194. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a big difference in prices of generic medicines and the same branded medicines;

(b) if so, the details of the prices of important medicines in both these categories; and

(c) the measures being taken to ensure sufficient supply of generic medicines, manufactured by reputed companies to the common people and ensure that the doctors prescribe the medicines in generic names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The prices of generic medicines sold in the open market are generally at par with the prices of the branded medicines. However, there is a big difference in the prices of generic medicines sold through the Jan Aushadhi Drug stores *vis-a-vis* the prices of the branded medicines, as would be observed from the following illustration:-

Name of salt	Dosage	Pack	Average Market Price of Branded Medicines (Rs.)	Prices of Generic Medicines sold in Jan Aushadhi generic drug stores (Rs.)
Tablet Ciprofloxacin	250 mg	10	55.00	11.10
Tablet Ciprofloxacin	500 mg	10	97.00	21.50
Tablet Diclofenac SR	100 mg	10	51.91	3.35
Tablet Cetirizine	10 mg	10	37.50	2.75
Tablet Paracetamol	500 mg	10	13.56	2.45
Tablet Nimesulide	100 mg	10	38.66	2.70
Cough Syrup		110 ml bottle	33.00	13.30

The generic drugs being sold at the Jan Aushadhi Drug Stores are not only equal in quality but also have the same efficacy and potency as compared with the much expensive branded medicines. Under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995), Government is mandated to control the prices of 74 bulk Drugs and its formulation as per the provisions of the said Order. National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals also monitors and regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of IMS Health and the information furnished by individual manufactures are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntary failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of formulation in public interest. The list of price of generic medicines and the same branded medicines is not maintained by the Government.

(c) The Jan Aushadhi Campaign was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals with the main objective to make available generic medicines at affordable prices to all. In so far as supply of generic medicines is concerned, presently all the five Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) namely IDPL, BCPL,

RDPL, KAPL and HAL are manufacturing and supplying generic medicines for sale at the Jan Aushadhi Stores. Wherever Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened, the concerned State Governments are issuing instructions/guidelines to their Doctors in the Government Hospitals to prescribe generic medicines. Similar instructions are also reported to have been issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to the Doctors to prescribe medicines in generic names.

Settlement of backlog levies of fertilizer units

195. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Finance is considering other alternative options to resolve settlement of backlog issue of additional State levies of fertilizer manufacturing units as the State Governments are not in a position to refund this additional levy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has received any communication during last six months in this regard, if so, the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Ministry has communicated to Ministry of Finance to provide one time financial grant to resolve this matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) To resolve the issue of settlement of backlog arrears in respect of Non-recognized Input Taxes levied by State Government of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, consultation process is going on with the stakeholders. Appropriate decision shall be taken by the Government, taking into account views of State Government and interests of farmers and fertilizers companies.

(c) the Department of Fertilizers has received communications from the public authorities in the matter and the Department of Fertilizers has sent an interim reply to them.