

of the Government and depreciation of Indian Rupee. Presently, there is no proposal under consideration to regulate the MRP of P&K fertilizers.

Fixation of drugs prices

202. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that companies are fixing prices of drugs irrespective of their production cost;
- (b) if so, whether the apex court has issued directives in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the steps Government is taking to fix the prices of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled, drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. The NPPA monitors the prices of all formulations including imported scheduled formulations under price control. Under the provisions of DPCO, 1995, no person is authorized to sell any scheduled formulation (medicine) to a consumer at a price exceeding the price notified/approved by the NPPA.

In respect of drugs not covered under the DPCO, 95 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. However, as a part of price-monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of IMS Health and the information furnished by individual manufacturers 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 voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest.

(b) and (c) No such final directives have been issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, the prices of drugs are fixed as per the provisions of DPCO, 1995 as explained in reply to part (a) of the question as above.