

A number of private organizations, NGOs, professional bodies like IMA and pharmacist associations have been involved for advocacy of use of standard, rational anti TB regimes, as per RNTCP guidelines.

Appointment of SKO wholesalers in UP

†*103. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) has submitted any proposal to the Central Government for enhancing the number of wholesalers of Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) for ensuring better distribution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) the time by when additional wholesalers are likely to be appointed in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The Central Government has not received any proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for enhancing the number of wholesalers of Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Action plan for checking chit fund frauds

*104. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has devised certain action plan or policy measures to control chit funds and such other frauds in the country, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the end-result of such as Sarada chit fund of Kolkata, in refunding the life-savings that had been deposited by various individuals with the company; and
- (c) whether the State or the Central Government has sanctioned certain amounts to compensate the members of this chit fund, and if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) A Central Chit Fund Act, 1982 is in existence since August, 1982. This Act provides for a legal framework including safeguards for regulation of chit funds in India. The Act has been extended to all States and Union Territories except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Government has also promulgated the Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 to, *inter-alia*, amend the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act, 1992 for providing more powers to the capital markets regulator for enforcement against illegal collective investment schemes and to curb insider trading. With the amendments in force now, SEBI would have powers to regulate any pooling of funds under an investment contract involving a corpus of Rs.100 crore or more, attach assets in case of non-compliance and Chairman, SEBI would have powers to authorise the carrying out of search and seizure operations, as part of efforts to crack down on ponzi schemes.

(b) and (c) In the aftermath of fraud committed by Saradha Realty India Limited (SRIL), SEBI has passed a detailed order on 23.04.2013 asking the SRIL and its Managing Director to wind-up its existing investment collective scheme and refund the money within a period of three month and submit a winding-up and repayment report to SEBI in accordance with the CIS Regulations. Further, SRIL and its Managing Director have been debarred from accessing the capital market till all its Collective Investment Schemes are wound-up and all the money mobilised through them are refunded to the investors.

The State Government of West Bengal has also set-up the Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice Shri Shymal Kumar Sen, Retired Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952 to enquire into the matter of different companies linked to the Saradha Group of Companies and other similar companies who have reportedly mobilised funds from the common people of the State. The Terms of Reference of the Commission, *inter-alia*, include assessment of the assets and liabilities of the said Group of Companies and such other Group of Companies involved in similar activities and to recommend the means of providing the persons who have allegedly lost their savings with compensation derived from the assets of the said Group of Companies.

Action by CERC on Renewable Purchase Obligations

*105. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state: