

(b) and (c) Action for recovery of the overcharged amount has been taken as per the provisions of Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). Demand notices have been issued to the pharmaceutical companies amounting to Rs. 2902.22 crore for selling the medicines at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA, out of which, Rs. 253.43 crore has been recovered till 31.07.2013. However, in some cases, the demands raised for overcharging have been challenged in courts and as of now about 94% of the total outstanding amount i.e. Rs.2648.79 crore is under litigation. These court cases are being handled by the Law Officers and Central Government Counsels. NPPA is actively pursuing these court cases and is in constant touch with the Government Counsels. Where the demand raised by NPPA has not been challenged in the court and the concerned company does not deposit the amount of demand within the time granted, the matter is referred to the respective Collector for recovery of the overcharged amount as arrears of land revenue under Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

#### **Popularizing generic medicines**

2212. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) how far Government is successful in popularizing generic medicines;
- (b) whether the Ministry has issued any instructions to doctors to prescribe generic medicines; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to keep rates of branded medicines within control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) For making available low-cost quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all, the Government launched Jan Aushadhi Campaign in November, 2008 by way of opening up of Jan Aushadhi Drug Stores. Since November, 2008, 157 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened in various parts of the country, out of which 93 are functional. A New Business Plan has been designed particularly to address the shortcomings and challenges identified in scaling up the activities. Under the new Plan, the process of identification of operating agencies has now been simplified and entities other than those identified by the State Governments are also proposed to be appointed as operating agencies for running the Jan Aushadhi Stores. As per the new Plan, societies/ trusts/

unemployed pharmacists / entrepreneurs etc. would be eligible for appointment as operating agencies. Stores would now be opened even outside the hospital premises. Basket of drugs has now been widened to 361 drugs covering all therapeutic categories.

(b) 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 & Family Welfare to the Doctors to prescribe medicines in generic names.

(c) All the existing manufactures of scheduled formulations, selling the branded or generic or both the versions of scheduled formulations at a price higher than the ceiling price (plus local taxes as applicable) so fixed and notified by the Government, shall revise the prices of all such formulations downward not exceeding the ceiling price (plus local taxes as applicable). All the existing manufactures of scheduled formulations, selling the branded or generic or both the versions of scheduled formulations at a price lower than the ceiling price (plus local taxes as applicable) so fixed and notified by the Government shall maintain their existing maximum retail price. National Pricing Policy Authority (NPPA) has so far notified the ceiling prices for 300 formulations as per the provision of DPCO, 2013.

#### **Supply of urea by OMIFCO**

2213. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether supply of urea by JV entity namely 'Oman India Fertilizer Company' (OMIFCO) will help the Government in meeting the local demand of urea which is estimated to be around 336.77 LMT by the end of Twelfth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Government of India (GOI) has entered into a long Term Urea Off Take Agreement (UOTA) with OMIFCO to lift its entire production of urea in the first fifteen years of its production. The commercial production of the company commenced *w.e.f.* 14th July