

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said LBF were developed in 2005 and established their efficacy; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to encourage the utilization of LBF so as to benefit farmers and consumers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Liquid Bio-fertilizers produced by the Anand Agricultural University (AAU), Anand have been tested on several crops including potato, but not on ginger and found eco-friendly and cost effective.

(b) Liquid bio-fertilizers were developed earlier and are known to maintain higher efficacy, as these are free from contamination when produced under sterile conditions with long shelf life of about one year. AAU started commercial production of *Azospirillum*, *Azotobacter* and *Phosphate Solubilizing Bacillus* in 2005.

(c) Government of Gujarat has supported the production of Liquid Bio-fertilizers under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and established a production unit at AAU, Anand and Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation, Ahmedabad. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has supported the R&D of Liquid Bio-fertilizers under the All India Network Project on Soil Biodiversity-Bio-fertilizers. Further, the Government of India is supporting production of bio-fertilizers for establishment of State of the art sterile liquid/carrier based Bio-fertilizers production units.

#### **Prices of cancer drugs**

\*71. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is mulling over reducing the prices of cancer drugs for the common man; and

(b) if so, by when, as it will not just benefit Indians but also bring down cancer drug prices in countries where the pharma market is not controlled by the US and Western European nations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Cancer Drugs are non-scheduled drugs and therefore, prices of cancer drugs are not fixed under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95). Prices of non-scheduled drugs are fixed by the respective manufacturers themselves without seeking the approval of Government/

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). There is no control on the launch price of non-scheduled medicines under DPCO, 95.

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, 95 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest.

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012 (NPPP, 2012) notified by the Government on 7th December, 2012 has the provisions of bringing the medicines under National List of Essential Medicines-2011 (NLEM-2011) under price control. NLEM-2011 also contains anti-cancer drugs of the specified strengths and dosage forms. As envisaged in the NPPP, 2012 prices of these specified anti-cancer drugs under NLEM-2011 would be fixed after promulgation of the new Drugs Prices Control Order by the Government.

#### **Use of sub-standard seeds by farmers**

\*72. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports of use of sub-standard/spurious seeds by farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its likely impact on the agricultural production;

(c) the decline in agricultural production recorded during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the action taken by Government to supply good quality seeds to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has received complaints regarding supply of substandard/spurious seeds at a few places in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, etc. As reported by the State Governments, action in accordance