

(b) the vision of Government to increase cotton production in the country during the next five years;

(c) whether reintroduction of cotton seeds in the list of Essential Commodities is in the interest of cotton producing farmers; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not making any rule to regulate supply, distribution, sale and price of Bt. Cotton seeds to safeguard the interests of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR) : (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton in important cotton growing states to increase production and productivity of cotton. Under this scheme various inputs like seeds, water saving devises, bio-agents/bio pesticides, extension of crop production and plant protection technologies through demonstrations and training of farmers under Farmers Field School (FFS) and extension workers through Training of Facilitator (ToF) are implemented to disseminate latest production technologies among the farmers in the country including Gujarat. Cotton production in the country has gone up from 187 lakh bales in 2001-02 to 352 lakh bales in 2011-12.

(c) and (d) Cotton seeds were brought under the purview of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 by notification issued by the Department of Consumer Affairs since 22.12.2009 in 2012 to regulate the production, supply, distribution of quality of cotton seeds including Bt. cotton, in the interest of the cotton growing farmers in the country. The price of Bt. cotton seeds is determined by the State Governments.

Production cost of controlled *vis-a-vis* decontrolled drugs

968. SHRI TARUN VIJAY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production cost of decontrolled drugs are more than that of controlled drugs;

(b) the details thereof and the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government has decided to reduce the prices of life saving drugs including those of cancer and AIDS etc. for the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) and (b) Details of cost of production of the decontrolled drugs *vis-a-vis* controlled drugs are not being maintained centrally.

Government has notified the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) on 15th May, 2013 in supersession of DPCO, 1995. All the medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines 2011 (NLEM) have been included in the first schedule of DPCO, 2013 and brought under price control. NLEM also includes certain medicines used for treatment of cancer and AIDS etc. Out of total NLEM drugs, NPPA has already notified the ceiling prices in respect of 387 medicines upto November, 2013 under provisions of the said order.

Filling up of vacant posts in ITAT

969. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) do not have permanent President last three to four years;

(b) whether it is not fact that officiating President appointed in ITAT is violating the amendment in Section 252 of the Income Tax Act;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are vacancies of one Sr. Vice President, four Vice-Presidents, one Registrar and so many Dy. Registrars and Asstt. Registrars, Government has not taken any steps to fill up these vacancies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken so far in the above case?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) After the last incumbent of the post of President, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, appointed in substantive capacity, retired on superannuation on 3rd June, 2010, appointments to the post of President were made in officiating capacity.

(b) No, Sir.