

(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.

(c) and (d) Action has been initiated to appoint President, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, in substantive capacity. One post of Sr. Vice-President and four posts of Vice-Presidents in the Tribunal, are vacant. Since some of the earlier appointments of Vice-Presidents in the Tribunal have been challenged in the courts and the matter is sub-judice, action to fill up the vacant posts of Sr. Vice-President and Vice-Presidents, cannot be taken. Action to fill up the vacant posts of Registrar, Dy. Registrars and Asstt. Registrars in the Tribunal, is underway in consultation with the Tribunal and the Union Public Service Commission.

Storage of ammonia by fertilizer units

970. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by Government to direct fertilizer units for taking all possible steps for safety of ammonia storage as these units are located in populated area along with details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware that machineries of fertilizer industries are very old which need timely repair/maintenance to avoid any major accident; and

(c) whether Government is going to constitute any technical committee to make a study in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) All fertilizers units are complying the central and state regulations regarding safe ammonia storage. A large number of ammonia storage tanks are located both for manufacture of urea and complex fertilizers. New storage tanks are double wall and double integrity tanks and are inherently safe. Safety features like construction of dyke wall for containment of spill have been provided in old tanks. All tanks have additional safety features like relief valves, refrigeration compressors with back up, flare system, ammonia sensors around the storage tanks area for detection of leaks with alarm in the control rooms, remote shut off valve, lightening and earthing protection, etc.

(b) Yes Sir. Each unit is adhering to all regulations applicable to them, which is evident from the fact that there have been no reported incidents due to operation