

Changes in FDI policy for pharma sector

1409. SHRI N.K. SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the multinational companies are presently trying either to buy the Indian companies or to finish them;

(b) if so, whether Government has decided to make major changes in the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for the pharmaceutical sector to ensure that management control of existing Indian firms which produce cheap generic medicines does not go into the hands of multinational companies, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, to what extent major changes in FDI is going to protect Indian firms which produce cheap generic medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN) : (a) A number of major Indian pharmaceutical companies and facilities have been taken over by multinational corporations in the recent years.

(b) and (c) The government considered a proposal to review the FDI limit in the brownfield pharmaceutical sector to curb the takeover of domestic pharmaceutical companies having rare and critical facilities. Government did not approve the said proposal.

Revision of guidelines of MDA Scheme

1410. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has put emphasis on exports and to facilitate this, various measures including Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme have been operating, if so, details thereof;

(b) the extent to which MDA scheme has been able to achieve its objectives so far;

(c) whether Government has revised the guidelines for Market Development Assistance for participation in buyer-seller missions/fairs/exhibitions abroad to explore new markets in-focus countries of Latin America;