

Industrial and Financial Reconstruction. CCEA has also directed that revival of HFCL will be taken up once revival of FCIL is on track. As such the revival of closed units of HFCL would be taken once the revival of FCIL units is on track. SAIL is planning further course of action in respect of Sindri unit. It has been decided to entrust the assignment of R&R activities at Sindri Unit to M/s Project and Development India Limited (PDIL) and PDIL have submitted their offer for the assignment to SAIL on 20.09.2013 for their examination and approval. Gorkhpur unit is scheduled to be revived through a bidding route and same would be taken up considering the progress of Sindri, Talcher and Ramagundam units of FCIL by nominated Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

Ministry has not entered into any agreement with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in this regard and expected time for reaching the agreement cannot be indicated at this stage.

#### **Access to drugs by poor people**

2989. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that access of drugs to poor people has not improved;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that since introduction of Drug Prices Control Order, access to medicines in class II to IV towns has actually declined; and
- (c) if so, the effective steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Pursuant to the announcement of National Pricing Policy (NPPP), 2012, the Government has notified Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) on 15.05.2013. 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. Consequent to the price fixation of drugs under this order, the accessibility (to the drugs) of poor people has rather improved considerably. Out of 404 NLEM medicines for which NPPA has notified the ceiling prices, the prices of 112 medicines have reduced by more than 40% with respect to the highest prevailing price to the retailer.

Further, NPPA monitors shortages and availability of drugs on the basis of monthly reports received from State Drugs Control Administration and also complaints, if any, received from individuals etc. On receipt of such reports, NPPA immediately takes up the matter with the concerned manufacturer and advice them to rush the stock

in the affected area. NPPA has not received any specific report that the medicines are being sold at high prices due to their shortage/non-availability in the country.

(b) and (c) In view of the above, the question as in (b) and (c) do not arise.

#### **Subsidy given to farmers of Uttar Pradesh**

2990. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of subsidy given to farmers on fertilizers by Government during each of the last two years, state-wise and fertilizer-wise, including Uttar Pradesh and Punjab;

(b) whether the small and marginal farmers of the country have not been provided the benefit of subsidy;

(c) if so, the details and reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) whether Government has introduced any scheme to provide direct subsidy to farmers in their bank accounts, 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) The details of fertilizer subsidy (product-wise) given during the last two years are as given below. State-wise subsidy paid figures are not available as the subsidies are released to fertilizers companies:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Imported urea	Imported P&K	Indigenous P&K	Indigenous urea
2011-12	17475.00	16571.92	20237.49	20285.44
2012-13	20016.00	14576.10	16000.00	20000.00

(b) and (c) All farmers benefit from the subsidy on fertilizers as the MRP of these fertilizers are subsidized. The MRP and subsidy paid on each type of fertilizers is also printed on the fertilizers bags.

(d) No, Sir. The Government has not yet introduced any scheme to provide direct subsidy to farmers in their bank account in view of difficulty in identification and targeting the beneficiaries. In view of the above, National Committee on Direct Benefit of Transfer (DBT) has decided not to implement Direct Transfer of Subsidy in fertilizers.