

FDI in pharmaceutical sector

2496. SHRI GARIKAPATI MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to boost research and development in pharmaceutical sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether FDI in pharmaceutical sector is permitted/contemplated;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the future steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHAL CHAND): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are seven National Institutes of Pharmaceuticals Education and Research (NIPERs) under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals, one each at Mohali, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Hajipur, Kolkata and Rae-Bareilly, with the prime objective to nurture and promote quality and excellence in pharmaceutical education and research. The Government has also approved setting up of a National Centre for R & D in Bulk Drugs at NIPER, Hyderabad. Department of Biotechnology has been supporting research and development in the field of biomolecules for prophylactic/therapeutic purpose, similar biologics, medical devices and diagnostics. The R & D support is extended through grants-in-aid and public private partnership programs. Also, the Department of Science and Technology is implementing a plan scheme *viz*; Drugs and Pharmaceutical Research Programme (DPRP) through which the Department extends grants-in-aid and soft loan for promoting R & D in drugs and pharmaceutical sector.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The extant FDI policy in pharmaceutical sector allows 100% FDI through automatic route for Greenfield investment, 100% FDI is permitted for brownfield investment in the Pharmaceutical sector under the Government approval route. With a view to protect the domestic pharmaceutical sector including the production of generics, the Government has decided that 'non-compete' clause would not be allowed except in special circumstances with the approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

Technology enabled Post Office

2497. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated a vision of having technology enabled Post Office;