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-Bareli, 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;

(b) if so, the details thereof and funds earmarked since inception of the vision; and

(c) the details of targets achieved under this vision and funds spent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has approved Department of Post IT Modernization project of ₹ 1877.2 crores in August 2010 which was revised in November 2012 with a total outlay of ₹ 4909 crores. The IT Modernization project aims at modernization and computerization of all post offices in the country including 1,33,000 branch post offices in rural areas. It is an ambitious transformational project undertaken by the Department of Posts. By setting up an IT infrastructure spanning across all post offices, including branch post offices in rural areas, the department will be able to harness the benefits of consolidated real time information and capabilities across various functional silos as well as geographical reach. The transformation of the physical network to a digital network also will provide a national asset for all users, apart from post offices, including various government departments, business houses and citizens to use the IT enabled country wide network for communication, banking, insurance and service delivery needs with transaction data. The project will create a national asset of 1,55,000 networked post offices. This mega IT driven transformation is the first of its kind undertaken by any postal operator in the world as well as any government department in the country. It involves development of scalable, integrated and modular software covering all operations of the Department of Posts, including Post office Savings Bank, Postal Life Insurance, Mail Operations along with establishment of the required IT infrastructure including Data Centre, Disaster Recovery Centre, WAN Networking of the Departmental Post Offices, development of rural information communication technology (Rural ICT) in rural post offices and providing rural post offices with mobile devices which are Aadhaar enabled and will also act as micro-ATMs apart from transacting Post Office Savings. This project will equip the Department of Posts to play a more pro-active role towards transforming the rural economic landscape in the country, apart from providing value added mail and financial services to the urban customers.

The Department of Posts has a network of approximately 1,55,000 post offices out of which 1,33,000 are rural branch post offices. The transformation of the physical network to a digital network also will enable the Government to use the postal network to reach out to the rural population for efficient delivery of social service schemes, apart from improving the communications, banking, insurance, mails and other service delivery needs of the citizens. The IT modernization project, particularly the rural ICT solutions will thus rebuild the rural postal network to create an institutional infrastructure for last mile delivery of all government services to citizens. The project will make the Post office

the focal point of delivery for social security and employment guarantee schemes of Centre and State Government including disbursement of wages under MNREGS, Pension and scholarship, etc. through Direct Benefit Transfer and biometric authentication of financial transactions.

The IT project also aims to provide customer interaction through multiple channels like call centres and internet, ATM, mobile banking and net banking for PO Savings Bank customers. It will provide an electronic and secure mode of money transfer including doorstep delivery even in rural areas.

The Department of Posts is thus poised to transform itself to play an even more significant role by bridging the urban rural divide and bringing IT-enabled services to all sections of the society through 1,55,000 IT – enabled post offices. The reduction of paper-based processing would also enable an environmentally sustainable greener post office.

(c) The IT Modernisation Project of India Post is being implemented through eight segments dealing with various components of the Project keeping in view the large Post Office network variety/ complexity of services being delivered through the post offices. The present position in respect of the eight segments (Request for Proposals) is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Contract (RFP)	Present Position
1	2	3
1.	Data Centre Facility (DCF)	Contract signed on 14.05.12. Implementation started on 28.12.12. The Primary Data Centre started functioning from 3.04.13. DC was dedicated to Nation on 24.01.14. Status of Disaster Recovery Centre (DRC): Setting up of DRC is under progress.
2.	Network Integrator (NI)	Contract signed on 16.5.2012. Implementation started on 28.09.12. WAN roll out is in progress. So far Wide Area Network has been rolled out in 23747 locations.
3.	Financial System Integrator (FSI)	Contract signed on 09.08.2012. Implementation started on 28.09.2012. CBS roll out is in progress. So far 676 Post Offices have been switched over to Core Banking Solutions (CBS). ATM services have gone live in four Head Post Offices. Postal Life Insurance (PLI) Pilot roll out is in progress. So far 3500 Post Offices have gone live in PLI services.
4.	Change Management (CM)	Contract signed on 25.06.2012. Implementation started on 15.10.2012. Training, communication and Change agents-Continuous activities.

1	2	3
5.	Core System Integrator (CSI)	Contract signed on 15.04.13. Implementation started on 15.04.2013. Installation and commissioning of Central Hardware completed. Detail design documents completed. Testing of common infrastructure solution completed. Roll out is in progress.
6.	Mail Operations Hardware (MOH)	RFP was issued on 17.05.2013. After completion of bids evaluation' formalities LOI has been issued on 3.02.14 to the selected bidder. Action is underway to enter into contract.
7.	Rural Hardware (RH)	Earlier two bids were annulled. Once on 16.05.13 due to failure on the part of the bidder to furnish Performance Bank Guarantee and second time on 23.11.13 due to lack of competition. Fresh RFP was issued on 04.02.14. Last date for submission of bids is 04.04.14. Pre-qualification and technical bids evaluation completed. Financial bids opened on 13.05.14. Evaluation is in progress.
8.	Rural System Integrator (RSI)	Contract signed on 28.02.2013. Roll out kept on hold to align with RH-RFP finalisation.

Funds spent so far, year-wise, for the project:

Financial Year	Funds Spent (in crores)
2010-11	₹ 151.84
2011-12	₹ 91.92
2012-13	₹ 21.97
2013-14	₹ 253.73

Augmenting telecom infrastructure in North-East and hilly States

2498. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has taken note of deficient mobile services *viz.* connectivity problems, dropping calls, weak signals etc. provided by BSNL in the North-East and other hilly States/areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are reports that a number of towers in Himachal Pradesh and other hilly States have been installed but not yet activated, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard including augmenting telecom infrastructure in North-East/Hilly States/areas, so as to ensure seamless service to the customers in these States/areas?