

this year has put pharmaceuticals companies in problems, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) is not allowing the loss making pharmaceutical companies to discontinue their production and exit from the market in spite of their negligible market share, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken by Government to protect such pharma companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHALCHAND): (a) The new National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy (NPPP) was promulgated on 7th December, 2012 with the objective to put in place a regulatory framework for pricing of drugs so as to ensure availability of required medicines—“essential medicines” at reasonable prices even while providing sufficient opportunity for innovation and competition to support the growth of pharma industry thereby meeting the goals of employment and shared economic well-being for all. Subsequently, the Drugs (Price Control) Order (DPCO) was notified on 15th May, 2013. The present DPCO, 2013 is based on market based pricing which is faster and easier to implement than the earlier DPCO which was cost based and complex.

(b) DPCO, 2013 *vide* its para 21 (2) provides that any manufacturer of scheduled formulation, intending to discontinue any scheduled formulation from the market shall issue a public notice and also intimate the Government in Form-IV of Schedule-II of this order in this regard at least six months prior to the intended date of discontinuation and the Government may, in public interest, direct the manufacturer of the scheduled formulation to continue with required level of production or import for a period not exceeding one year, from the intended date of such discontinuation within a period of sixty days of receipt of such intimation. Accordingly, Form-IV application received from different manufacturers are processed and permission for discontinuation of medicines is granted or refused by the NPPA under para 21 of DPCO, 2013 depending upon the availability of the drug in question.

(c) Does not arise, as permission for discontinuation is granted unless there is apprehension that it may lead to a shortage of the scheduled drug(s).

National Mobile Number Portability

416. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to do away with the roaming charges by adopting the National Mobile Number Portability (MNP); and

- (b) if so, the details thereof and by when the scheme is going to be a reality?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) At present, no proposal is under consideration for doing away with roaming charges by adopting the National Mobile Number Portability (MNP).

- (b) Does not arise in view of above.

Child bullying on internet

†417. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the survey of a cyber security software company Symantec has revealed that a large number of urban and rural children in the country are becoming the victim of bullying;

(b) whether children are falling prey to depression due to the said problem, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken or would be taken by Government in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) There have been some media reports that children are becoming victims of depression owing to cyber bullying. As per the survey report “Cyber Crime -2013 - Kids (India)”, published by the software company, Symantec about 18% of children have said that they have been victim of bullying on internet. It has been stated that the sample size of said survey is limited to 203 kids.

(c) The Government has taken various steps in this regard which include:

- (i) Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an Advisory on Preventing and Combating Cyber Crime against Children dated 4th Jan., 2012, wherein it was advised to States/Union Territories to specifically combat the crimes in the forms of cyber stalking, cyber bullying, child pornography and exposure to sexually explicit material etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.