

Revival of State-owned drug manufacturing companies

1430. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to revive State-owned sick drug manufacturing companies viz. Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL), Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. and Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. to cater to the unmet need for essential medicines like anti-retrovirals, cancer drugs, complex antibiotics and medicines used in treatment of tuberculosis etc.; and

(b) if so, the present position of these Central Public Sector Undertakings and the measures taken for their revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) Presently revival of Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL) and Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) is under consideration of Government of India. The Revival Package sanctioned for Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL) is under implementation.

Promoting generic medicines

1431. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued any guidelines for encouraging/motivating doctors to prescribe generic medicines to the maximum extent possible, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the extent to which the guidelines are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) The Government has from time to time been issuing circulars/instructions to all Central Government hospitals, CGHS dispensaries and State Governments for encouraging/motivating doctors to prescribe generic medicines. Instructions have also been issued that all Central Government hospitals provide only good quality generic medicines, and that whenever any branded medicine is prescribed, it shall invariably mention that any other equivalent generic medicines could also be provided. The Code of Medical Ethics under Indian Medical Council Regulations, 2002 provides that every physician should, as far as

possible, prescribe drugs with generic names and ensure that there is a rational prescription and use of drugs. Directions have also been issued to all the State/UT Governments on 01.10.2012 to grant/renew licenses to manufacture for sale or for distribution of drugs in proper/generic names only.

Reports of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority

1432. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) regularly monitors shortage and availability of drugs;
- (b) if so, the details of the monitoring reports for the last three years; and
- (c) the action taken on the findings of NPPA in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (c) 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 other sources. On receipt of such reports, NPPA immediately takes up the matter with the concerned manufacturers and advises them to rush the stock in the affected area. Concerned State Drugs controllers are also requested in this regard to ensure smooth supply of drugs in their States. Reports on short supply of certain medicines such as Anti-snake venom, Rabies vaccine, Rabies Immunoglobulin, Albumin Injection and Anti-malarial combination of Sulfadoxine+Pyrimethamine Tablet were received by the NPPA. In this regard, all the manufacturers/importers/marketing companies of these drugs have been directed to submit production/availability data and also a compliance report of resolving the shortage of these drugs in the country immediately issuing a gazette notification dated 09.09.2014.

Monitoring of shortage and availability of drugs is carried out by the NPPA as an on-going process for ensuring smooth supply of the drugs in the country. NPPA does not compile and maintain yearly data on shortages of drugs.

Use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture

1433 SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: