

[1 December, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

**Increase in prices of medicines**

1291. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the increase percentage of prices for medicines normally used by the average Indian people for common ailments like fever, bad cold, cough, malaria, viral fever, diarrhoea, eye's ailments, ENT ailments, stomach diseases or illnesses of head and stomach, as compared to 1995; and

(b) whether this price enhancement and increase matches with the increased purchasing capacity of these people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The prices of scheduled bulk drugs and scheduled formulations are fixed by the Government in accordance with the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. The prices of non-scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves. The percentage increase in the Wholesale Price Index (Base Year 1981-82=100) from December, 1994 to December, 1999 is 30.55 for all commodities and 70.22 for drugs and medicines.

**Subsidy to fertilizer sector**

†1292. DR D. MASTHAN:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether there has been an immense increase in the amount of subsidy given to the fertilizer sector during the decade of 90s;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in subsidy during 1999-2000, in comparison to the year 1990-91;

(c) whether the consumer sale-price had also been increased during the above period; and

(d) if so, the rate of increase in the said price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In 1990-91, total expenditure on subsidy on fertilizers was Rs. 4389.06 crore and during 1999-2000, the expenditure on subsidy (on urea) including

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

expenditure on concession on sale of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers was Rs. 13244.07 crore. Thus the percentage of increase in the amount of subsidy on fertilizers during 1999-2000 was nearly 202% of the subsidy expenditure incurred in 1990-91.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Urea is the only fertilizer which is at present under statutory price, distribution and movement control. In 1990-91, the statutorily notified sale price of urea was Rs. 3600/- per tonne, while in 1999-2000 the sale price of urea is Rs. 4600/- per tonne.

### **Increase in prices of fertilizers**

†1293. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that small farmers are facing great difficulties due to the increase in fertilizer's prices;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any effective measures to provide fertilizers to small farmers, on concessional rates; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government periodically fixes a uniform farm gate price for urea, which is the only fertilizer under price, movement and distribution control keeping in mind its fiscal constraints and the need to provide urea to all farmers including small and marginal farmers at affordable price. Uniform pricing all over the country irrespective of the size of the farm hold is well-considered policy.

### **Scientific tests hampered by skinning of tigress**

1294. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Research Project hampered by killing", appearing in the Pioneer dated 18th October, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the recent incident of skinning a tigress in the Nehru

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