

[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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.