

(d) The remaining 37% share is likely to come from Telangana State Government, technology suppliers and strategic investors which shall happen in due course of time.

**Smuggling and diversion of urea/fertilizers**

2128. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 10-15 per cent of urea is diverted for non-agricultural purposes and urea and other fertilizers are smuggled to Nepal, Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, details of measures taken to curb diversion and smuggling of fertilizers to neighbouring countries;

(c) the measures taken to maintain strict vigilance on the borders to check smuggling of fertilizers; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to establish an institutional mechanism in cooperation with State Governments to take notice of smuggling and divergence of fertilizers for non-agricultural purpose and to ensure stringent punishment for those involved in such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (d) There are reports of alleged diversion of urea and smuggling of fertilizers from some quarters. During the year 2014-15, 18 cases of smuggling and six cases of diversion have been reported by various State Governments. In this regard it is stated that Government of India has declared fertilizer as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (ECA) and notified Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985 and Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order, 1973 under the EC Act. State Governments have been adequately empowered to ensure selling of fertilizers at MRP besides stopping black-marketing/smuggling of fertilizers. State Governments are empowered to conduct search, make seizures and take punitive action against any person violating provisions of FCO, 1985 and Essential Commodities Act, 1955. In addition, Department of Fertilizers has, from time to time, written to the Chief Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Central Board of Excise and Customs to activate the enforcement agencies under their jurisdiction to take action in this regard. Further, Department of Fertilizers, through weekly video conference with Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

and representatives of State Government has been sensitizing and advising the State Governments for keeping strict vigil and for taking of prompt action by the State Governments to check black-marketing, diversion, smuggling and breach of MRP.

**Review of drug pricing policy**

2129. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether the controlled price of some essential medicines fixed by Central Government is four thousand per cent higher than that being provided by some States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons and rationale for the same; and

(c) whether in view of above Government would review its drug pricing policy, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) The ceiling price fixed in accordance with the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013 are uniformly applied in retail marketing across the country for all medicines sold in brand name or generic name.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.

**Review of drug pricing policy for essential medicines**

2130. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the drug pricing policy for essential medicines is unreasonable as the price of some medicines is around 4000 per cent higher than that fixed by some States;

(b) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has asked the Central Government to reexamine the present drug pricing policy for essential medicines;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Central Government in this regard; and