

Supply of low cost generic medicines and production of APIS

1490. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be please to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to start more Pharmaceutical companies to provide generic and cheap medicines and drugs to the needy poor people, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has taken up the issue with the drug manufacturers and pharmaceutical industries to produce and use Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) indigenously than to depend heavily on China; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof along with the further steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZER (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government had constituted a Committee headed by Secretary, Health Research to look into the issues of Active Pharmaceuticals Ingredient (API)/ Bulk Drugs produced in the country. The recommendations of this committee which have since been submitted to the Government are being examined in consultation with all stake holders including manufacturers. These recommendations, once implemented would provide a roadmap for the growth of domestic Bulk Drug/API industry.

Unauthorized sale of fertilizers

1491. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to conduct inspection on the quality of fertilizers being sold in the market and their price, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor, and whether cases of unauthorized sale of fertilizers have been encountered by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details of the quantity and net worth of fertilizers stocked for sale without prior permissions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is already a mechanism in place to ensure quality of fertilizers and reasonable prices of subsidized

fertilizers in the country. Under FCO quality of indigenous/imported chemical fertilizers is tested regularly through the network of 78 Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs). As per clause 19 of the FCO, no person shall manufacture/import any fertilizer for sale, which is not included in the FCO or not of standards prescribed in the FCO. State Governments are the agencies empowered to take necessary administrative and punitive/legal action against those not complying with the provisions of the FCO.

In respect of monitoring of prices of subsidized fertilizers, the fertilizer companies are required to print Maximum Retail Price (MRP) along with applicable subsidy on the fertilizer bags clearly. Any sale above the printed MRP is punishable under the EC Act. Besides this, the Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers manufacturers/importers are required to upload MRP of P&K fertilizers in the web-based Fertilizer Monitoring System. The MRPs entered by these companies are regularly monitored. The Government is also examining the reasonableness of MRPs of P&K fertilizers from 2012-13 onwards.

Under FCO only authorised persons are eligible for sale of fertilizers in the country. During 2014-15, no case of unauthorised sale of fertilizers has been reported by any State Government.

Supply of fertilizers to Uttar Pradesh

†1492. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards paucity of urea and other chemical fertilizers in the State of Uttar Pradesh; and
- (b) whether Government is formulating any scheme to meet the demand of fertilizers and chemical fertilizers so that the problems of farmers could be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) To meet the demand of chemical fertilizers (Urea, DAP, MOP & NPK) of farmers following steps have been taken by Department of Fertilizers during the current season:

- (i) The month-wise demand has already been assessed and projected by the Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) in consultation with the State Governments before commencement of current cropping season.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.