

Direct Cash Transfer in place of subsidized urea

355. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has planned any schemes to move from subsidized urea to selling it in open market through Direct Cash Transfer to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the time-frame by which the various schemes relating to these plans, will be rolled out; and

(c) the mechanism used to identify the beneficiaries of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) No, Sir. There is no plan to move from subsidized urea to selling it in open market through direct cash transfer to farmers.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Capping the share of margins on sale of medicines

356. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MRP of medicines often include a huge share of margin which goes to the chemists, distributors and wholesalers for pushing particular brands, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to cap the margin of chemists, distributors and wholesalers to bring down the prices of medicines to the consumers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) The Drug Price Control Order, 2013 provides that 16% of price as a margin to retailer shall be allowed, while fixing the ceiling prices of Scheduled formulations and retailed prices of new drugs. There is no prescribed margin for non scheduled formulations.

(b) A Committee was constituted by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to look into the issue of trade margins. The Committee has since submitted its recommendations which are being examined.