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

(b) and (c) As various stakeholders are involved and the Department is also to examine as to whether there is no overlapping between the statutory code and the other Codes/ Acts, which are being implemented by various other Ministries, no time limit can be indicated.

Capping on trade margins of costly drugs

1489. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a high level committee has recommended for capping of trade margins for costly drugs with a view to bring down the MRP of medicines;
 and
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the decision of Government on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee has proposed graded trade margins with reference to the Price to Trade (PTT). The proposals of the Committee have been put on the Department's website with the request to the stakeholders to give their comments. The comments received are being examined and a final decision would be taken thereafter.

Controlling prices of patented medicines

1490. KUMARI SELJA:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

- (a) whether Government has evolved any mechanism to control the prices of exorbitantly high prices of patented medicines to make them more affordable, if so, the details thereof:
- (b) the difference between the reference pricing system and the negotiated pricing model; and
 - (c) the further steps taken by Government in the matter?