

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. New Urea Policy (NUP)-2015 notified on 25th May, 2015 has reduced the energy consumption norms resulting in reduction in subsidy burden of the Government. The average reduction in energy consumption is 0.119 Gcal /MT of urea. At March 2016 pooled price of gas, reduction in subsidy burden is estimated to ₹ 480 crore upto reassessed capacity of production.

Promotion of generic medicines

681. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by the Ministry to train and encourage doctors to prescribed generic medicines as they are much cheaper than the branded drugs;

(b) the plans the Ministry has to open Jan Aushadhi Stores in all medical colleges, district hospitals and in all private hospitals to achieve (a) above;

(c) whether any consultations have been held with Indian Medical Association and the Medical Council of India to boost consumption of generic drugs in the country; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (d) To make available quality drugs at affordable prices through Jan Aushadhi Stores, the co-operation of States Governments/ Union Territories have been sought to open Jan Aushadhi Stores in all the Medical college and District hospitals. The private entrepreneurs have also been encouraged to open Jan Aushadhi Stores. The representatives of Indian Medical Association (I.M.A.) were called in various workshops and seminars held for Jan Aushadhi Scheme and persuaded to encourage their member Medical Practitioners to prescribe generic drugs. Their response in this regard has been positive. The Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India (BPPI) is also planning media activities for sensitization of doctors and to encourage them for prescribing Jan Aushadhi generic medicines. Support of IMA is also being taken for these activities.