

III. Ramagundam Unit:

- (i) Ramagundam Unit of FCIL is being revived on 'nomination basis' by consortium of PSUs namely Engineers India Limited (EIL), National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) and FCIL by setting up a gas based fertilizer plant of 1.27 MMTPA capacity.
- (ii) JV Company named "Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited" has been formed.
- (iii) Project activities are in progress.

New system in place of NPPA

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in a major overhaul of the country's drug policy, Government has taken a decision to disband the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and set up a new system in its place; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Bringing stents under NLEM

214. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has added coronary stents to the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2015 by bringing them under price control;

(b) if so, the details of price formula fixed by Government for various types of stents in the country;

(c) whether manufacturers/suppliers of stents have opposed this price formula for stents;

(d) if so, the details of their objections and Government's response thereto; and

(e) the details of further steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for making affordable and quality stents available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Health

and Family Welfare has included coronary in National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2015 *vide* its notification dated 19.07.2016. Subsequently Department of Pharmaceuticals has included coronary stents (i) Bare Metal Stents (BMS) and (ii) Drug Eluting Stents (DES) which include metallic DES and Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (BVS)/Biodegradable Stents in Schedule-I of Drug (Prices Control) Order, 2013. The ceiling prices of these stents shall be fixed as per the provisions in Drug (Prices Control) Order, 2013.

(c) and (d) Some of the manufacturers have asked for separate price because of the better technology involved in manufacture of their product. The Government shall take into consideration all the representation and take a decision within the framework of Drug (Prices Control) Order, 2013.

(e) The Government has rationalized the duty structure for raw materials for medical devices in January, 2016 for making available quality and affordable medical devices including stents domestically.

Digital India

215. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps Government has taken for cashless payments and Digital India;

(b) whether only 3 per cent of the population has access to the internet;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) how Digital India is possible without access to internet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Debt of MTNL

216. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is facing serious debt problem and is borrowing money to meet its day to day requirements;