

As per the study conducted by the Coordination Committee constituted by this Department in 2014-15 to address the issues related to human resources / skilled manpower requirement of the industry, it was estimated that around 11,80,000 skilled / semi-skilled manpower was employed in these industries in 2015 and a further requirement of around 11.60 lakh skilled and semi-skilled manpower was projected for 10 years from 2015 to 2024.

(c) and (d) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and also by Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers on 09.07.2015 to harness and strengthen the capabilities for skill training, to create an efficient mechanism for training, assessment, certification and placement of skilled and certified workforce in Chemicals and Petrochemicals sector as well as Fertilizers Sector.

**NITI Aayog for exemption of orphan and unbranded generic  
drugs from price control**

2768. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NITI Aayog has recommended exemption of orphan drugs and unbranded generic drugs from price control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has considered the views of NITI Aayog and if so, the details of outcome in this regard; and

(d) whether Government would ensure that such a decision would not have an adverse impact in the society, particularly with regard to orphan drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) to (d) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has suggested certain amendments to the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO-2013). During stakeholder consultations on the same, NITI Aayog has recommended that orphan drugs and unbranded generic drugs should be included in the ambit of para 32 of DPCO-2013 which gives exemption to certain categories of drugs from price control. The final view on the same will be taken after consulting all the stakeholders and on the merits of the proposals with overall public interest in view which is an ongoing process.