

fertilizers at MRP besides stopping black marketing/smuggling of fertilizers and no State Government has reported selling of fertilizers above MRP.

(c) and (d) P&K fertilizer companies were encouraged to reduce the MRP during the year 2016-17 to pass on the benefit of lower price of P&K fertilizers and their raw materials in international market to the farmers in the form of lower MRP. Due to the above, farmers were directly benefitted to the tune of about ₹ 5,000 crores during 2016-17.

However, since Natural Gas/Naphtha is used as a feedstock for the production of ammonia used for production of urea, there is no impact of global prices of ammonia on the cost of production of indigenously produced urea. Moreover, urea is being provided to the farmers at a statutorily fixed price.

#### **Amendments to DPCO, 2013**

46. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to bring amendments to the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013 to cover non-essential drugs under the price control;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that the Department of Pharmaceuticals is divided over amending the DPCO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of reply to (c) above, does not arise.

#### **Medical facilities for labourers employed in coal mining sector**

47. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labourers employed in Coal Mining sector are prone to serious health issues despite initiatives taken by Government;

- (b) whether this is due to exploitation of labourers by strong coal mafia;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by Government to nullify the role of coal mafia and to help labourers come out of their clutches; and
- (d) the medical facilities to which the coal labourers of organised and unorganized sectors are entitled to?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) No, Sir. The labourers employed in coal mining sector are not prone to serious health issues. The specific disease amongst coal mine workers is Coal Worker's Pneumoconiosis (CWP) which is caused by inhalation of coal dust for many years. At present, there are only 19 cases of CWP on roll amongst Coal India Limited employees.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view (a) above.

(d) Coal mine workers of organized and unorganized sectors are getting all type of medical facilities free of cost through hospitals and dispensaries owned and maintained by Coal India Limited spread across the coalfields areas.

#### **Supply of coal to non-regulated sector**

48. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken by Government to ensure supply of coal to the non-regulated sector *viz.*, steel, cement and sponge iron; and
- (b) whether any Memorandum of Understanding was signed in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The coal supply to Non-Regulated Sector (NRS) is through Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs) based on their long term linkage /Letter of Assurance (LoA) as recommended by Standing Linkage Committee (Long-Term). The coal supply to the steel Public Sector Units (PSUs) is also through Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Ministry of Coal *vide* letter No. 23011/51/2015-CPD (Pt-I) dated 15.02.2016 issued policy guidelines for Auction of linkages of Non-Regulated Sector. In this policy, it has been stipulated that all allocations of linkages/LOAs for non-regulated sector *viz.* Cement, Steel/Sponge Iron, Aluminum and Others [excluding fertilizer (urea sector)], including their CPPs, shall henceforth be auction based. It is also provided that there will be no renewal of existing FSAs of non-regulated sectors [except FSAs of CPSEs and Fertilizer (urea)]. CIL has accordingly been conducting linkage auctions under Non-Regulated Sector, including for Steel, Cement and Sponge Iron, and FSAs are signed with the successful bidders by the subsidiary coal companies of CIL. In addition to it, coal