

modifications. Subsequently on 07.12.2012, NPPP-2012 was notified with the objective to put in place a regulatory framework for pricing of drugs so as to ensure availability of required medicines - "essential medicines" at reasonable prices even while providing sufficient opportunity for innovation and competition to support the growth of pharma industry thereby meeting the goals of employment and shared economic well-being for all.

**Availability and affordability of life-saving drugs**

4525. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether life-saving drugs are being sold at high prices due to their scarcity in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether Government has fixed norms for maintaining minimum stock of life-saving drugs;
- (d) if so, the details and the estimated stock thereof in the country; and
- (e) whether Government has taken measures for conducting research on new life-saving drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) The medicines which are covered under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) announced by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are included in Schedule - I of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) and the ceiling price of these medicines are being fixed by the Government. As such no report regarding selling of drugs at high prices due to scarcity in the country has been received in NPPA recently. Further, the production and availability of scheduled medicines is regularly monitored by the NPPA mainly through Drugs Control Administration of State Governments. Whenever shortage is reported by the State Drug Controllers or when the matter comes to the notice of NPPA, remedial steps are taken for ensuring availability of drug by impressing upon manufacturers to rush the stocks to the places of shortage.

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

(c) and (d) As provided in the DPCO, 2013, the manufacturer of scheduled formulations are required to submit quarterly return (Form III) of the production/import

of scheduled formulation and the bulk drug/active pharmaceutical ingredients used in the formulations specified in Schedule - I of the DPCO, 2013. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has developed software, namely Integrated Pharmaceuticals Database Management System (IPDMS) for enabling on-line submission of the data by manufacturer in prescribed Form-III of DPCO, 2013 to NPPA. Whenever a shortage is reported from any part of the country, the Government ensures that the drug is made available to that part of the country. The data on the estimated stock in the country is not maintained by the Department.

(e) The Government is providing financial support for research and development through Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research Programme (DPRP) run by the Department of Science and Technology. The companies undertaking Research and Development activities are provided income tax benefits. Further, the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013, Para-32 (iii) provides exemptions from price control to a manufacturer producing a new drug involving a new delivery system developed through indigenous Research and Development for a period of five years from the date of its market approval in India.

#### **R & D for production of Potash**

4526. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any Research and Development (R&D) activity in the country to produce/manufacture Potash in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Department of Fertilizers has not undertaken any Research and Development (R&D) activity in the country to produce/manufacture Potash in the country. However, National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), a PSU under the administrative control of Department of Fertilizers, had undertaken pilot activity for production of Murexite of Potash (MOP) in association with Central Salt and Marine Chemicals research Institute (CSMCRI) at Kharaghoda in Gujarat but it could not move forward due to unviability of the project.

In order to promote research in the field of fertilizers, Indian Council for Fertilizer and Nutrient Research (ICFNR), an Institution exclusively devoted to promotion of