

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 Muriate 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

research in fertilizer sector under the Department of Fertilizers has been set up on 16.09.2016.

Apart from others, the ICFNR shall undertake/promote research in the area of fertilizer manufacturing technology, use of raw material and innovation in fertilizer products through partnership and collaboration with various research institutions, fertilizer industry and other stakeholders.

Mechanism for monitoring the prices of drugs

4527. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has created any mechanism for monitoring of prices of drugs and other medical devices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has devised any formula for fixation of drugs prices by pharmaceutical companies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is effectively monitoring the prices of scheduled as well as non-scheduled medicines under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) so that these formulations are available to public at the ceiling prices notified and any increase in price is limited to the provisions of DPCO, 2013. It takes action against companies found overcharging the consumers based on the references received from the State Drugs Controllers/individuals, samples purchased from the open market and reports from market based data and complaints received through the grievance redressal websites: 'Pharma Jan Samadhan' and 'Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)'. The monitoring of increase in the price of formulations beyond the permissible limit is also done on the basis of market data submitted by All Indian Origin Chemists and Distributors Ltd. (AIOCD) (Pharmatrac Data) and individual complaints.

(c) and (d) NPPA follows the methodology defined in the para 4, 5 and 6 of DPCO, 2013 for fixation of the ceiling prices of essential drugs and retail prices of new drugs