

Differential pricing of pharmaceutical products

†1327. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of Indian pharmaceutical products are much cheaper in foreign market than those prevailing in the country;

(b) if so, the number of important medicines exported in huge quantities and the comparative prices of those medicines in foreign market *vis-a-vis* the domestic market;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned by Government from the export of these pharmaceutical products in the last two years; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure better indigenous market for Indian medicines?

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

(b) and (c) In view of reply at (a) above, the occasion does not arise.

(d) The Government is committed to make India sufficiently self-reliant in end to end indigenous drug manufacturing by reducing the import dependence on drugs and to make Indian Pharma Industry globally competitive. The policies formulated by Government from time to time are made so that the country's dependence on imports are minimized and to give fillip to indigenous manufacturing. In this direction, the Government *vide* its notification dated 28th January, 2016 has withdrawn exemption of customs duty of certain categories of Bulk Drugs/APIs. Further, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has prepared an umbrella scheme namely 'Scheme for Development of Pharmaceutical Industry' with the objective to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of domestic pharmaceutical industry so as to enable them to play a lead role in the global market and to ensure accessibility, availability and affordability of quality pharmaceuticals of mass consumption. The umbrella scheme has the following sub-schemes:—

- (i) Assistance to Bulk Drug Industry for Common Facility Centre;
- (ii) Assistance to Medical Device Industry for Common Facility Centre;
- (iii) Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS);
- (iv) Assistance to Pharmaceutical Industry for Common Facilities; and
- (v) Pharmaceutical Promotion and Development Scheme (PPDS)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.