

Sanitary Napkin' at all its kendras (stores) with effect from 4th June, 2018, Initially these sanitary pads were made available to public at ₹ 2.50/- per piece. Subsequently, with effect from 27.08.2019, the price of these sanitary pads was reduced and presently they are being sold at Rs 1.00/- per piece so as to make them more affordable.

(c) The 'Janaushadhi Suvidha' Sanitary Napkins are environmental friendly, as these pads are made with Oxo-biodegradable material complying with ASTM D-6954 (biodegradability test) standards.

(d) and (e) As on 18.11.2019, more than 2.25 crore pads of 'Janaushadhi Suvidha' Sanitary Napkins have been sold under the scheme across the country. The price of these napkins at Rs 1/- per pad are much cheaper than the market price of similar sanitary napkins being sold at ₹ 3/- to ₹ 8/- per pad.

(f) and (g) Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI), the implementing agency of PMBJP is spreading awareness campaign about the salient features of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana including Janaushadhi Suvidha Oxo-Biodegradable Sanitary Napkin through various types of advertisements such as Print Media, Radio advertisement, TV advertisement, Cinema advertisements and Outdoor publicity like Hoardings, Bus Queue Shelter branding, Bus branding, auto Rikshawas wrapping. In addition to this, BPPI also educating the public about the usages of Jan Aushadhi generic medicines through social media platforms like facebook, twitter, Instagram, Youtube, etc. regularly on daily basis.

Divestment of Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals

683. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to divest the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on recommendation of a Committee of Ministers, the Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 28.12.2016 has decided for strategic sale of Bengal Chemicals and

Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL) after meeting its liabilities from the proceeds of sale of surplus land to Government agencies. As land sale to government agencies could not materialize, the matter was re-considered. Subsequently, the Cabinet in its meeting held on 17.07.2019 has decided, amongst others, that sale of the surplus land would be as per revised Department of Public Enterprises' (DPE) guidelines dated 14.06.2018. Separately, the High Court of Calcutta *vide* its order dated 13.02.2018 passed in CWP No. 15560/2017 has set aside the decision of strategic sale of the Company, indicating that the order would, however, not prevent the authorities from deciding on fate of BCPL, in accordance with the law. The order has been challenged before the Division Bench of the High Court and is presently pending before the Court.

Purchase of Fertilizers under DBT Subsidy Scheme

684. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that farmers are not interested to purchase fertilizers under DBT subsidy scheme;
- (b) the State-wise consumption of fertilizers during the last three years;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that many of the fertilizer companies are reluctant to produce fertilizers due to pendency of payment from Government; and
- (d) if so, the details of pendency of payment to fertilizer companies as on date?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) No Sir. No report has been received in the Department of Fertilizers that farmers are not interested to purchase fertilizers under DBT subsidy scheme.

(b) The details of State-wise consumption of fertilizers during the last three years is given Statement-I and III (*See* below).

(c) No complaint/information has been received from fertilizer companies that they are reluctant to produce fertilizers due to pendency of payment from the Government.

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