

[8th December, 2000] RAJYA SABHA

**Overcharging by M/s. CIPLA**

2076. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. CIPLA is involved in overcharging the prices of Salbutamol and Norfloxacin;

(b) if so, the amount earned by M/s. CIPLA on overcharging; and

(c) the details of action being taken by Government against M/s. CIPLA and for recovery of overcharged amount from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has issued a notice to M/s. CIPLA LTD., on 24.8.2000 for Rs. 79,62,30,387/- for the amount overcharged in the sale of Salbutamol based formulations.

NPPA has also issued a notice dated 5.9.2000 to M/s. CIPLA Ltd. for Rs. 74,84,32,890/- for the amount overcharged in respect of Norfloxacin formulations.

The inclusion of both these drugs in the First Schedule of DPCO 1995 has been challenged in the Bombay High Court by Cipla Ltd. and Another by filing Writ Petitions. The respondents in the said proceedings including the Union of India have been restrained from taking any coercive action against the Writ Petitioners i.e. Cipla Ltd & Another till the disposal of the said Writ Petitions.

**White Paper on sick Fertilizer Companies**

2077. SHRISOLIPETARAMACHANDRAREDDY:  
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the production figure of Haldia Fertilizer Company this year;

(b) the fertilizer units declared sick during this year;

(c) whether Government proposed to issue a white paper on sick fertilizer companies; if so, by when it is proposed to be issued; and

(d) how the shortage of urea in the country is proposed to be met?