

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to include the medicines being used by the poor people of the country in the list of Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO); and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when Government would issue order in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (d) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. These drugs have been identified for inclusion under price control in the DPCO, 95 on the basis of criteria mentioned in the 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986' announced in September, 1994. These criteria take into account the extent of usage and the market competition of various drugs.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

GoM recommendations on Naphtha based Units

1887. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Group of Ministers on fertilizers have okayed for Naphtha based fertilizer units to convert;

(b) if so, what are the other recommendations made by the Group of Ministers;

[19 December, 2003] RAJYA SABHA

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to implement these recommendations; and

(d) by what time they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (d) The Group of Ministers (GoM) has given its recommendations, *inter-alia*, on switchover of non-gas based urea units to Natural Gas (NG)/Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) for feedstock and fuel purposes. The other recommendations of GoM pertain to policy for new and expansion urea units, policy for de-bottlenecking/revamp/modernisation of existing urea units and extension of special dispensation to outlier units under the New Pricing Scheme for urea units.

Further action on implementation of these recommendations will be taken after approval by the competent authority.

Medicines under DPCO

1888. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to some corporate houses charging exorbitant prices for their formulations of Ayurvedic and other indigenous drugs on the plea of natural and herbal cure;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that the medicines based on indigenous formulations do not fall within the ambit of Drugs Price Control Order and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would consider including such formulations within the National List of Essential Medicines, 2003 by a suitable amendment of DPCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) Ayurveda Siddha, Unani drugs do not all within the ambit of Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1995 (DPCO'95). "Formulation" defined in DPCO1995