

[13 August, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

Minimum Support Prices for crops like pulses and oilseeds *vis-a-vis* paddy and wheat. With a view to enhance value addition in agriculture, the Union Budget 2003-04 has proposed a new Central Sector Scheme on Hi-tech Horticulture and Precision Farming. The major components of this scheme are use of hi-tech interventions like fertigation, use of biotechnological tools, green food products, and hi-tech green houses.

Cancer drugs under DPCO

2110. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Cancer Care Foundation and others are demanding for putting cancer drugs under Drug Price Control Order; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) National Cancer Care Foundation has sent its suggestions to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to make the drugs used in the treatment of cancer affordable. 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. None of the 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of DPCO, 95 is an anti-cancer drug.

Processing of farm product

2111. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to take up farm product processing is under the consideration of IFFCO;