

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to facilitate IFFCO's entry into this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. IFFCO has conducted sectoral study to identify investment options in farm product processing. The proposal is at the preliminary stage of study.

Promotion of indigenous pharma

2112. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new drugs coming out of indigenous R&D have been taken out of price control regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken and proposed to be taken to promote indigenous pharma R&D?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government have issued Guidelines for the purpose of grant of exemption under paragraph 25 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 to a drug manufacturing unit from the provisions of paragraphs 3, 8 and 9 of the said Order, in respect of such new bulk drugs which have not been produced elsewhere if developed and produced by that unit through indigenous research and development, for a period of ten years reckoned from the date of commercial production of such bulk drug subject to the conditions specified in the guidelines.

(c) In February, 2002, the Government announced the 'Pharmaceutical Policy-2002', which includes in principle approval to the establishment of the Pharmaceutical Research & Development Support Fund (PRDSF) under the administrative control of Department of Science and Technology, which will also constitute a Drug Development Promotion Board (DDPB) on the lines of the Technology Development Board (TDB) to administer the utilization of the PRDSF. A

provision of Rs. 150.00 crores has been made for setting up of PRDSF under the overall budget of Department of Science and Technology.

Special courts for environment related cases in Maharashtra

†2113. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued orders to open special courts in Maharashtra for speedy disposal of environment related cases;

(b) if so, the fresh steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) by when such special courts are likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not issued any instruction to open Special Courts in Maharashtra for quick disposal of environmental cases.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Inclusion of Ganga and Gangotri pilgrimage in Ganga Action Plan

†2114. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the place of origin of Ganga-Gangotri pilgrimage is also included in the Ganga Action Plan;

(b) if so, whether he is aware of the fact that thousands of pilgrims and Kanwaris going to Gangotri dump thousands of tones of grabage there every year;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has made any plan on the line of public movement going on in Uttarkashi to clean the Gangotri and to protect the glacier; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.