

(b) the rate of Commission provided to various dealers for each ton under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) National Fertilizers Ltd. has introduced Central Stock Scheme (CSS) w.e.f. 01.04.1999. Under the Scheme, dealers are eligible for commitment rebate provided they lift the monthly/seasonally committed quantities. The CSS dealers are required to lift every month fixed percentage of the total committed quantity.

(b) Dealers get a distribution margin @ Rs. 180 per MT; besides, cash discount in lieu of credit period. The CSS dealers are also allowed commitment rebate depending upon the quantity lifted during the season, annually and the security deposit made with the company.

Operationalisation of DPCO

3192. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has refused to permit the Central Government to operationalise the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) issued under the pharmaceutical policy 2002;

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

(c) whether the Court has also directed Government to take some corrective steps in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the follow-up action taken thereto so that the D.P.C.O. could be put into effect immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government announced the 'Pharmaceutical Policy 2002' in February, 2002. However, a public interest litigation filed in the High Court of Karnataka at Bangalore resulted in an Order dated 12.11.02 which stopped the Government from implementing the price control regime of the Pharmaceutical Policy 2002. This Department filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court of India against the Order of the Karnataka High Court, which has

been admitted as SLP(C) No. 3668/2003. The Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 10.3.2003 directed, the Government, *inter alia*, to "consider and formulate appropriate criteria for ensuring essential and life saving drugs not to fall out of the price control and further directed to review drugs, which are essential and life saving in nature till 2nd May, 2003." Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has brought out the National List of Essential Medicines, 2003 after the review of the National Essential Drugs List, 1996.

Special Subsidy Package

3193. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to offer further special subsidy on the purchase of fertilizers for farmers considering that most of the fertilizers firms are looking at Disinvestment;

(b) if so, what would be the special subsidy package on fertilizers for the year 2003-2004; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to change the level of subsidies on fertilizers. The level of subsidy/concession being extended on various fertilizers is independent of the issue of disinvestment.

Release of document on Union Carbide

3194. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Union Carbide case of 1984 which has killed at least 8,000 and crippled more than 20,000 till date;

(b) whether it is a fact that recently a document has been released claiming that 'unproven technology' had been used by Union Carbide which led to leakage of poisonous gas;

(c) if so, the complete details thereof; and

(d) steps taken by Government to end the case earlier?