

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?