

(b) whether anti-cancer drugs have been kept out of DPCO and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware of the very high prices of anticancer drugs in the domestic pharma market causing intense suffering to the cancer patients; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to cut the prices of anticancer life saving drugs so as to make them within easy reach of cancer patients?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (d) The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) was promulgated by the Government *vide* S.O.18(E) dated 6.1.1995. The 74 bulk drugs specified in its First Schedule and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceuticals 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.

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

Establishment of higher education centres in Rural Areas

†*98. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards inadequacy of higher education and its lower standards in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to formulate a comprehensive scheme to establish higher education centres in rural areas

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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to impart training to the ambitious students of rural areas in order to make them compete with the students of urban areas for seeking employment in higher posts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJI BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC) is responsible for the overall development of higher education in the country. It has been laying a lot of emphasis on promoting access, equity, relevance and quality of higher education. UGC has started several schemes to address all these issues. The schemes are applicable to all the institutions located both in rural and urban areas. Similarly, the regulations formulated by the UGC for maintenance of standards are also equally applicable to institutions located both in the urban and rural areas. However, the UGC adopts relaxed norms while determining financial assistance for rural institutions in one of its major schemes, *viz.* development assistance to colleges. There is no proposal under consideration of UGC to formulate scheme to establish higher education centres in rural areas to impart training to the ambitious students of rural areas.

Implementation of famine code

*99. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the unprecedented drought that hit different parts of the country with hungry millions in the face of overflowing godowns, the Supreme Court had directed the States, in May this year to implement the famine code for the next three months;

(b) if so, the response of the States to implement relief work meticulously as per famine code;

(c) the foodgrain and cash allocation to each State under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana; and