

[9 May, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

Stage-I will be of one year duration from 1-4-2003 to 31-3-2004. Stage-II would be of two years duration from 1-4-2004 to 31-3-2006. Modalities for subsequent stages will be decided after review of Stage-I and II.

Partial decontrol of distribution of urea has been allowed under NPS. In Stage-I, *i.e.* from 1.4.2003 to 31-3-2004, the allocation of urea under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (ECA) will be restricted up to 75% and 50% of production capacity in Kharif, 2003 and Rabi, 2003-04, respectively. During Stage-II, urea distribution will be totally decontrolled after having evaluated the Stage-I.

(c) and (d) Under the liberalized industrial policy, entrepreneurs are free to set up fertilizer units anywhere in the country subject to environmental clearances.

New Drug Policy

5161. SHRI G. K. VASAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a New Drug Policy has been formulated by Government;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the date by which the Policy would come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH) :

(a) and (b) Government announced the 'Pharmaceutical Policy-2002' in February, 2002. The main objectives of this Policy are, *inter-alia*, ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality, essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption and strengthening the indigenous capability for cost effective quality production. A copy of the Policy is available in Parliament Library.

(c) A Public Interest Litigation in Karnataka High Court resulted in an order dated 12.11.2002 which stopped the Government from implementing the price control regime of the Pharmaceutical Policy—2002. Government have filed a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court against the order of the Karnataka High Court.