

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (f). Action to set up the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has been initiated. However, final decisions are yet to be taken regarding its administrative and financial aspects.

[Translation]

Meeting of Law Secretaries

2229. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of State law secretaries was held in Chandigarh recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to provide inexpensive legal aid to rural people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b). A Working Group of Law Secretaries and of Law Ministers met in Chandigarh during 29-31 October, 1994. The Working Group considered various aspects of Rural Litigation.

(c) Lok Adalats are being organised to provide inexpensive legal aid to rural people.

[English]

Acquisition of Shoes for Armed Forces

2230. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to utilise the full manufacturing capacity of Tannery and Footwear Corporation Limited, Kanpur, in the matter of procuring boots and shoes for armed forces;

(b) the steps taken to restrict the bad quality supplies of these items from private sector;

(c) whether the procurement price has been much lower than that has been established by Directorate General of Quality Assurance; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and action proposed to be taken to procure all these items from the public sector in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d). The boots for Armed Forces are procured from Ordnance Equipment Factory, PSUs and trade. After fully booking the capacity of Ordnance Equipment Factory, orders for procurement of boots and shoes are placed on various suppliers including Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in accordance with Government orders in force from time to time. According to orders presently in force, PSUs are not eligible for any price preference, but if the price quoted by PSUs is within 10% of the lowest valid

price bid, purchase preference may be granted to the PSU concerned i.e., the PSU will have to make the supply at the lowest valid bid rate.

All stores are accepted after due inspection by quality assurance agencies to ensure strict adherence to the quality specifications.

The procurement price is determined on the basis of competitive rates quoted by firms participating in tender and not on the basis of cost analysis by Directorate General of Quality Assurance. The cost analysis by Directorate General of Quality Assurance takes care of various factors such as cost of procurement of raw material, overheads, profit, financing charges, allowances for rejections etc. which vary from firm to firm. Therefore, this cost can only be taken as indicative price of boots / shoes.

Socio-economic Development Projects

2231. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently finalised an action plan regarding the role of voluntary organisations and their relationship with various Government departments for socio-economic development projects in the country;

(b) if so, the main features of the action plan; and

(c) the steps envisaged for implementation of the recommendations and the progress achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) An Action Plan to bring about a collaborative relationship between voluntary organisations and Government evolved at a conference held in March, 1994 has been approved recently by the Prime Minister.

(b) Main features of the Action Plan are:—

(1) There should be a collaborative relationship between Government and Voluntary Organisations (VOs) as partners at all levels. i.e. the District, State, Regional and National level.

(2) VOs have two important roles to perform; (i) mobilisation and organisation of the poor and the disadvantaged in the society by education awareness-building and conscientisation with a view to empowering them; (ii) providing delivery services by implementation of various development projects with Government assistance or assistance from other sources.

(3) Government and VOs together should work for evolving models of development that would keep at all times people at the centre.

(4) Institutional mechanism for close inter-action between Government and VOs should be set up from Central right up to the Panchayat levels.

(5) The existing rules and regulations governing the relationship between the Government and the VOs should be made simpler and easier.