

Change in Drug Import Policy

1907. SHRI SHANKERSINEJI
VAGHELA:
SHRI ANANT DAVE:
DR. BABU KALDATY:

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

(a) whether Government have made certain changes in the drugs import policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the changes made;

(c) whether the new changes are likely to favour multi-national companies; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) to (c). The import policy for Registered Exporters as contained in the Import Trade Control Policy Book (Vol. II) for the period April 1977—March 1978 has been modified with effect from 27-9-77 to provide for import of canalised bulk drugs by Registered Exporters against REP entitlements only against the export of drugs and drug intermediates excluding Ayurvedic and Unani medicines. This change has been made with a view to ensure proper and smoother implementation of scheme of canalisation of bulk drugs through the canalising agencies of Government and is not likely to favour multinational companies.

(d) Does not arise.

Suggestions from Punjab State to amend the Hindu Succession Act, 1956

1908. SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI:
Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE

AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of Punjab has suggested amendments in the Hindu Succession Act, 1956;

(b) if so, what are the suggestions; and

(c) whether these are likely to be incorporated, if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NAR-SINGH YADAV): (a) A proposal for amending the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, was received in 1969 from the Government of Punjab.

(b) The proposal was to amend the Hindu Succession Act in relation to the State of Punjab for the purpose of debarring daughters from inheriting agricultural land of their fathers.

(c) The Government of India did not agree with this proposal mainly for the following reasons:—

(i) Equal share for the sons and daughters in father's properties is in consonance with article 15 of the Constitution which provides, *inter alia*, against discrimination on the ground of sex.

(ii) If daughter alone is excluded from Class I heirs specified in the Schedule to the Hindu Succession Act, the entire scheme of heirs in that class is apt to be disturbed.

(iii) Section 30 of the Hindu Succession Act provides for testamentary succession in certain cases whereby a Hindu is free to take resort to testamentary disposition. So if the father so desires, he could provide by will for a form of devolution of his properties different from that prescribed by the Act.