

EPF Organisation which administers the Fund, there is no violation of the prescribed investment pattern and as such, no action in the matter is considered necessary.

15-Point Programme

*327. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 15-point programme formulated by the Government of India a few years ago for the welfare of minorities has been implemented;

(b) if so, the main points implemented and those not implemented;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement the unimplemented points; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIJMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities drawn in May, 1993 is an on-going programme and implemented by the Government of India as well as the State Governments/Union Territory Administrators.

The points contained in the Programme are in the nature of guidelines for the all round development of Minorities.

[*Translation*]

Price of Medicine

*328. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

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

(a) whether prices of many medicines have increased in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names thereof alongwith the names of the foreign countries from where these medicines have been imported;

(c) whether the NPPA has determined the prices of formulae of 71 drugs out of which the prices of 39 drugs have been increased by 50.6 percent;

(d) if so, the steps taken to lessen the burden of high price on the public; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (e) It is not a fact that prices of many medicines available in the country have increased during the last three years. There is no pattern to the change in prices. While, prices of some medicines have increased, prices of some other have declined and prices of quite a few have remained unchanged.

Currently, the country is more or less self sufficient in the requirement of formulations. Almost 98% of the formulations are indigenously produced. However, a few of the medicines which are imported are also subject to price control under DPCO 1995, having been identified for inclusion in price control based on the criteria in "Modifications in Drug Policy 1986". Some examples of imported medicines under price control are Insulin Injections (origin in Germany, Denmark and USA); Lincomycin based formulations (origin in Belgium) etc.

After NPPA was established in August, 1997 the prices of 665 formulation packs have been fixed/revised. In the case of 302 packs, prices were reduced. In the case of 269 packs, prices were increased and prices remained unchanged for 24 formulation packs. Copies of relevant notifications are available in the Parliament library. Out of these 665 formulations packs, in September 1998, 71 formulation packs had their prices re-fixed by NPPA. Of these 71 formulatin packs, there was increase in respect of 39 packs, ranging from 0.04% to 50.06%. However, there was decrease in the case of 24 packs ranging between 0.7% to 81.67%. In the case of remaining 8 packs, either there was no change or the prices were fixed for the first time.

DPCO, 1995 provides a mechanism for making available medicines to the public at affordable and controlled prices. The abundance of supply is ensured through the "Modifications in Drug Policy 1986" under which manufacture of drugs and medicines, except for a very few items, has been delicensed.

[*English*]

Sealing of Indo-Pak Border

*329. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: