

(a) whether the Executive Council of Delhi University has the power to reduce or alter the reservation policy for SCs/STs in services as the same is provided in the Constitution of India;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Executive Council is considering to reduce the reserved posts for SCs/STs candidates in Delhi University; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) On the basis of information received from the University of Delhi, the Executive Council of the University of Delhi is not considering to reduce the reserved posts for SC/ST candidates in the University. Hence the question of the University taking a decision or exercising power in contravention of reservation policy does not arise.

Import of Sugar

3149. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the varieties of sugar imported and the countries from which import was made; and

(b) the details of the custom duty and FOB levied on each variety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Import of sugar being on Open General Licence (OGL), various private parties are importing sugar as per their own commercial judgement. As per DGCIS-Calcutta, the Sugar is being imported from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, France, German F. Rep., Pakistan, Singapore, S. Africa, U. Arab E.M.T.S., U.K., U.S.A., Hongkong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea R.P., Myanmar, Mexico, Philippines, Saudi Arab, Thailand, Canada, Chinese Taipei, China P. R.P., Iran, Netherland and Sudan etc.

Government w.e.f. 28th April, 1998, imposed a basic custom duty of 5% and a countervailing duty of Rs 850 per tonne on imported sugar. The basic custom duty was increased from 5% to 20% w.e.f. 14.01.1999.

In the Union Budget for 1999-2000, the duty on imported sugar has further been increased from 20% to 27.5%.

[Translation]

Hike in Medicines Prices

3150. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Patent Kanoon, Ke Bad Davaiyon Ke Kemate Betahasha Badhengi" appearing in 'Jansatta', dated 21st January 1999;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check the price in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The TRIPS Agreement does not prohibit the use of price control measures. Presently, India has opted for the transitional provisions as provided in the TRIPS Agreement which is applicable upto 31st December, 2004 and till that date, the product patent is not available in the country. Moreover, it is expected that at no point of time, more than 10% of medicines sold in the market would be covered by product patent. In almost all therapeutical categories, generic/non-patented alternatives will be available.

Golden Jubilee Year

3151. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started making preparation to celebrate Golden Jubilee Year of official language beginning from 14 September, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;