

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) The "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" announced in September, 1994 were aimed to ensure abundant availability at reasonable prices of essential and life saving and prophylactic medicines of good quality. Accordingly, Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO) was promulgated in January, 1995 in line with the policy guidelines. No general shortage of essential/life saving drugs, except localised shortage of some particular branded formulations have been reported from time to time for which steps to rush supplies are taken. Prices of scheduled drugs and formulations are fixed/revised under the provisions of DPCO on the recommendations of a body of experts after scrutiny of the cost components. In case of medicines outside price control where abnormal price increases are noticed or reported, the same are probed and meetings are held with the concerned companies with a view to check the prices.

[Translation]

Import of Chemical Fertilizers

1742. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the import of chemical fertilizers is increasing continuously;

(b) the amount of import of chemical fertilizers made during 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(c) the amount of import of chemical fertilizers likely to be made during the next year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Urea, DAP and MOP are three major fertilizers currently being imported for bridging the gap between their assessed demand and indigenous availability. Out of these, only urea, which is under price, distribution and movement control, is imported on Government account. The imports of DAP and MOP have been decanalised w.e.f. 17.9.1992 and 17.6.1993 respectively and are freely importable. The quantities of major fertilizers imported during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under :—

(Qty. in Lakh Tonnes)

Fertilizer	1995-96	1996-97
Urea	37.82	23.28 (upto Feb. '97)
DAP*	14.06	5.05 (upto Jan. '97)
MOP*	21.92	7.34 (upto Jan. '97)

*As these fertilizers have been decanalised, the figures of their imports are as available with the Department of Fertilizers.

(c) It is not possible to indicate the likely imports of urea during 1997-98 as it will depend upon a variety of factors like trend of indigenous production, consumption of fertilizers in the country, behaviour of prices in the international market, global demand and supply position, etc.

[English]

All India Jail Manual

1743. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA: SHRI JAISINH CHAUHAN : SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Jail Prisoners' Act has become too old keeping in view the prison scenario of the country;

(b) whether the Supreme Court has recommended preparation of a common 'All India Jail Manual' for all the prisons in the country;

(c) the details regarding the recommendations made on the jail manual and prison reforms; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of the jails in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Supreme Court in its order dated 23.12.1996 has highlighted the prevailing conditions in the prisons and has reiterated the need to take action on some of the problems relating to streamlining of the remission system and parole, to deliberate about enacting of a new Prison Act to replace the old Indian Prison, 1894, to examine the question of framing of model new All India Jail Manual, to improve medical facilities and hygienic conditions, to think about introduction of liberalisation of communication facilities, to take needful steps for streamlining of jail visits and to ruminate on the question of introduction of open air prisons in the districts headquarters of the country.

(d) 'Prisons' being a State subject as per entry 4 of List-II State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, it is primarily for the State Governments to deal with any matter relating to prison administration according to their rules, regulations, Jail manuals, etc. However, the Government of India provides financial assistance, under the Scheme of Modernisation of Prison Administration, to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in improving prison infrastructure and living conditions of prisoners. The Tenth Finance Commission has also recommended financial assistance to the State Governments