

case of non-scheduled formulations, companies are free to fix their own prices.

(c) For medicines outside price control whichever abnormal price increase of commonly used drugs is noticed if such rise is unjustified then action under DPCO can be initiated.

Production/ Import of Life Saving Drugs

2161. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the number, names, domestic production, requirement, imports and retail prices respectively of life saving drugs during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to revive the ailing Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) in view of the rise in prices of life-saving drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Details regarding production, imports exports of bulk drugs etc. are given in the Annual publication of Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals titled 'Indian Drugs statistics', copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) The issue of future of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) is under consideration of the Government and a decision is likely to be taken soon.

[Translation]

Self Employment Schemes

2162. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some blocks of Ludhiana district in Punjab have been selected for advancing loan to Scheduled Castes and Minorities for self employment ;

(b) if so, the names of the blocks ;

(c) whether the Government have selected blocks in other States of the country also under this scheme;

(d) if so, the names of the States and blocks selected till now ; and

(e) the criteria adopted for the selection of blocks ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. In Ludhiana District loans are advanced to Scheduled Castes for self employment.

Further, no block in Ludhiana District has been selected for advancing loans to Minorities.

(b) The block-wise details are not maintained in the Ministry.

(c) The Central Government does not involve in selection of Blocks under this scheme. The scheme is implemented through the State-level Channelising Agencies for identifying the beneficiaries at the district/ block level keeping in mind the actual requirement, type of project, priority areas, etc.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (b) and (c) above.

(e) The Central Government does not release funds Block wise. As such the question of criteria for the same does not arise.

Increase in the Prices of Wheat and Rice

2163. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSIWAL :
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have hiked the prices of wheat and rice under the Public Distribution Scheme particularly in Delhi recently ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Central Issue Prices (CIP) of wheat and rice have been revised w.e.f. 1.6.1997.

(b) The C.I.P. have been revised after the gap of 3 years. During the last 3 years the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for procurement of foodgrains was increased thrice resulting in a steep hike in food subsidy in the Central budget and necessitating revision of the CIP. The CIP for families below poverty line (BPL) and families above poverty line (APL) have been fixed separately with the launching of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) with effect from 1.6.1997. The CIP before and after the revision are shown below :

Central Issue Price

	(Rs. per Qtl.) Rice			
	Wheat	Common	Fine	Superfine
With effect from 1.2.94	402	537	617	648
With effect from 1.6.97				
For families below poverty line (BPL)	250	350	350	-
For families above poverty line (APL)	450	-	650	750