

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4565
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2009
PROCESSED OPIUM
Singh Shri Dushyant

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

- (a) the manner in which the processed opium assists the pharmaceutical industry; and
- (b) the future prospect of processed opium in the pharma companies?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a): Processed opium assists the Pharma industries, as opiate alkaloids viz. morphine, codeine, the baine, noscapine and papaverine are extracted from opium and they have pharmaceutical use. The salts and derivatives of the above alkaloids have varied medicinal uses.

(b): The Directorate General of Health Services is receiving estimates of opium every year for the next year from various State Drugs Controllers. The State Drugs Controllers are furnishing estimates for every year on the basis of demands received from the various manufacturers of opium formulations licensed by them. After receiving the demands of opium, the said Directorate is sending the same to the Narcotics Commissioner of India for taking necessary action in the matter. The Office of the Chief Controller, Govt. Opium and Alkaloid Factories has informed that they have no plans to increase or decrease the quantity of processed opium.