

[English]

Price of Medicine

4898. DR. SAROJA V. :
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have enhanced the prices of life saving drugs recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons and justification for such hike;

(c) the effect of such hikes on the poor people;

(d) whether there is a wide gap between the wholesale prices and retail prices of certain common medicines;

(e) if so, the reasons thereof;

(f) whether the controller of drugs and pharmaceuticals keeps a strict vigil in the production limit and the quality of their products; and

(g) if so, the number of cases of default registered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) :
(a) and (b) Life saving nature of the drugs depends upon a particular situation and circumstances. The OPCO, 95 does not make distinctions between life saving drugs and other drugs. Recently the NPPA has enhanced the price of a bulk drug, namely, the Pheniramine Maleate. The marginal change in the price of a bulk drug is warranted because of changes in the cost of inputs, changes in consumption norms and technology, etc.

(c) The diseases that primarily afflict poor are mostly covered under the National Programme for Health Care of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare where essential drugs are supplied free by the Government through State Governments.

(d) and (e) For scheduled drugs and formulations, the permissible margins are regulated under the provisions of DPCO, 1995. The retail prices of decontrolled drugs and formulations are fixed by the manufacturers. The prices as measured by the Whole-sale Price Index (base

1981-82-100), has increased by 18.86 per cent in respect of drugs and medicines in 1997-98 over 1994-95 as compared to 20.06 per cent increase for all commodities during the same period.

(f) Quality of production is controlled through licensing system administered by State Licensing Authorities under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and the Rules thereunder.

(g) During the year 1995-96, 624 cases of prosecution were launched against the defaulting companies under the Drugs Cosmetic Act and Rules thereunder.

Quota of Wheat and Rice for BPL

4899. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of families below poverty line in Gujarat;

(b) whether the quota of wheat and rice has since been supplied to the State for the People Below Poverty Line from January, 1998 till date;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether this quota of wheat and rice is sufficient to meet the demand of the people of the State; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to increase the quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) As per estimates of Planning Commission for 1993-94 based upon the methodology of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor constituted by Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of late Prof. Lakadwala, the percentage of population Below Poverty Line (BPL) in Gujarat is 24.21. Accordingly the number of BPL families is estimated to be 19.95 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir.