

(b) whether the Government have identified any backward districts in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to simplify the procedure of sanctioning the projects to NGOs working especially for the weaker sections of the society; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARIJIBHAI PATEL): (a) to (e). Voluntary Agencies are funded projects by Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) covering areas of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Public Cooperation (PC), Organisation of Beneficiaries (OB), Advancement of Rural Technology Scheme (ARTS), Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) and Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).

CAPART has not identified any backward districts for assisting voluntary agencies. However, agencies implementing programmes for weaker sections of the society are given preference while considering project proposals for financial assistance.

To accelerate the process of screening and sanctioning of project proposals, the functioning of CAPART has been decentralised in September, 1994 by setting up six Regional Centres at Jaipur, Lucknow, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Guwahati. The Regional Committee would consider project proposals up to an outlay of Rs. 5 lakhs.

Drug Policy

7. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

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

(a) the broad features of the newly announced drug policy and its objectives;

(b) the likely impact on the prices of the drugs after its introduction;

(c) whether Government propose to ensure rationality

in the prices of the decontrolled drugs and their availability; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) The broad features of the 'Modifications in the Drug Policy, 1986' announced in Sept., 1994 are abolition of industrial licencing for almost all bulk drugs, intermediates and formulations, automatic approval of investment of 51% foreign equity, reduction in span of price control, simplification of the pricing mechanism and setting up of a National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), setting up of a National Drug Authority (NDA) by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, creation of a new department in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for promotion of indigenous system of medicines etc. The details of the modifications and the major objectives, which continue to be the same, as in Drug Policy, 1986, are given in the booklet 'Modifications in the Drug Policy, 1986' available in the library of Parliament.

(b) to (d): Some increase in prices due to the rising cost of inputs is inevitable. However, Govt. will keep a close watch on the price behaviour and availability of price decontrolled drugs.

Election Expenses

8. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to raise the ceiling limit on poll expenses by a candidate in the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections;

(b) if so, the revised ceiling limit fixed recently;

(c) whether it would be enforced from the ensuing Assembly elections; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d): The ceiling on election expenses have already been revised by the Government and the same are indicated in the Statement attached. The revised ceilings came into force with effect from 21st October, 1994.

Statement

Name of State or Union Territory Maximum limit of election expenses in any one

1	Parliamentary	Assembly
	constituency	Constituency
	2	3
I. STATES	Rs.	Rs.
1. Andhra Pradesh	4,50,000	1,50,000
2. Arunachal Pradesh	1,50,000	10,000
3. Assam	4,15,000	1,30,000