

FALEIRO): (a) to (e). The BICP is an expert organisation which conducts cost-cum-technical studies of various industrial products including bulk drugs under price control. The fixation/revision of prices of bulk drugs is done by the Government in accordance with the provisions of Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1987 after making such enquiry as it may deem fit, which also includes cost-cum-technical study got done through the BICP. Therefore, the question of price revision by the RICP with or without cost-cum-technical study does not arise.

Bulletproof Steel Shields

1514. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special steel shield has been developed to resist high speed bullets fired with an AK-47 rifles and automatic-762 rifle;

(b) if so, whether this special shield is also suitable for para-military forces and National Security Guards; and

(c) the time by which this shield is likely to be produced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The shield developed by DRDO with indigenous Steel called 'Jackal' has been found to be effective in providing protection against the small arms threat posed to para-military forces and Commandos of the National Security Guards.

(c) Bullet proof vests using 'Jackal' Steel are being made in limited numbers to meet the requirements as and when projected. Large scale production would be taken up based on firm requirements and commitments.

[English]

Prices of Drug

1515. SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:
SHRI TARA CHAND
KHANDELWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of supply and sudden increase in the prices of various drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the drug manufacturers have created such a shortage; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Price revision by the governments in case of price controlled drugs and formulations and by the manufacturers in case of non-price control drugs and formulations is an on-going process.

Shortages do get reported from time to time but the scrutiny of these reports reveals that the shortages in majority of cases, are of particular brands only for which alternative brands or therapeutic equivalents are available.

[Translation]

Sulabh shauchalaya

1516. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: