

EPF Organisation which administers the Fund, there is no violation of the prescribed investment pattern and as such, no action in the matter is considered necessary.

### 15-Point Programme

\*327. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 15-point programme formulated by the Government of India a few years ago for the welfare of minorities has been implemented;

(b) if so, the main points implemented and those not implemented;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement the unimplemented points; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities drawn in May, 1993 is an on-going programme and implemented by the Government of India as well as the State Governments/Union Territory Administrators.

The points contained in the Programme are in the nature of guidelines for the all round development of Minorities.

[*Translation*]

### Price of Medicine

\*328. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:  
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

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

(a) whether prices of many medicines have increased in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names thereof alongwith the names of the foreign countries from where these medicines have been imported;

(c) whether the NPPA has determined the prices of formulae of 71 drugs out of which the prices of 39 drugs have been increased by 50.6 percent;

(d) if so, the steps taken to lessen the burden of high price on the public; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (e) It is not a fact that prices of many medicines available in the country have increased during the last three years. There is no pattern to the change in prices. While, prices of some medicines have increased, prices of some other have declined and prices of quite a few have remained unchanged.

Currently, the country is more or less self sufficient in the requirement of formulations. Almost 98% of the formulations are indigenously produced. However, a few of the medicines which are imported are also subject to price control under DPCO 1995, having been identified for inclusion in price control based on the criteria in "Modifications in Drug Policy 1986". Some examples of imported medicines under price control are Insulin Injections (origin in Germany, Denmark and USA); Lincomycin based formulations (origin in Belgium) etc.

After NPPA was established in August, 1997 the prices of 665 formulation packs have been fixed/revised. In the case of 302 packs, prices were reduced. In the case of 269 packs, prices were increased and prices remained unchanged for 24 formulation packs. Copies of relevant notifications are available in the Parliament library. Out of these 665 formulations packs, in September 1998, 71 formulation packs had their prices re-fixed by NPPA. Of these 71 formulatin packs, there was increase in respect of 39 packs, ranging from 0.04% to 50.06%. However, there was decrease in the case of 24 packs ranging between 0.7% to 81.67%. In the case of remaining 8 packs, either there was no change or the prices were fixed for the first time.

DPCO, 1995 provides a mechanism for making available medicines to the public at affordable and controlled prices. The abundance of supply is ensured through the "Modifications in Drug Policy 1986" under which manufacture of drugs and medicines, except for a very few items, has been delicensed.

[*English*]

### Sealing of Indo-Pak Border

\*329. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the border with Pakistan is proposed to be sealed in Kashmir as has been done by Pakistan on the Western border; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) (a) and (b) There are no reports to indicate that Pakistan has sealed the Western border. As per information available, Prime Minister, Pakistan, during a meeting to review the law and order situation in Sindh, had given direction to deal the International border of Sindh.

2. Considerable portion of the border with Pakistan in J&K can not be fenced due to rugged nature of the terrain and gaps due to rivers, nullahs and streams etc. However, fencing of the Jammu International Border is under active consideration of the Government.

3. Further, Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach to tackle infiltration and militancy which includes, inter-alia, strengthening border management, gearing up the intelligence machinery, well-coordinated and sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements by the State and Central agencies, intensification of patrolling and checking on border and other vulnerable areas, upgrading of technical equipments with the police and security forces, improved inter-action with the border population, etc.

#### **Improvement of Unorganised Labour**

\*330. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH:  
SHRI K.P. MÜNUSAMY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed any measure for improvement the lot of unorganised labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken in this regard so far and its impact?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) A number of labour laws enacted for protection of workers' rights and for their welfare are also applicable to unorganised workers. Some of these laws are: the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976,

the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1976 etc. Workers engaged in iron ore, manganese ore, chrome ore, limestone, dolomite and mica mines, cine industry and beedi industry are also covered by the various welfare programmes undertaken under the concerned welfare funds. State Governments have also launched insurance and social security schemes covering large number of workers engaged in specific activities like handloom weavers, rikshaw pullers, etc. Improvement in quality of employment and conditions of work of workers in these unorganised/informal sector has been and continues to be a matter of prime concern for the Government.

The Government are also implementing a number of poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Indira Awaas Yojna (IAY), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (D.W.C.R.A.), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) etc. which are designed especially to benefit rural poor including workers in these unorganised/informal sector.

As regards fresh policy initiatives, the Central Government have enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 to protect the interest of workers engaged in construction industry which constitutes the second largest activity, after agriculture. It is also the endeavour of the Government to provide welfare measures and to extend legislative protection to more and more workers in the unorganised sector.

[Translation]

#### **Deaths due to Poverty and Dowry**

\*331. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:  
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of murders and suicides due to poverty and dowry demand after marriage involving the husband and his family members and friends which occurred during each of the last three years and till-date, State/UT-wise;