

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS**

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2670
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4th August, 2023

Shortage of Life Saving Drugs

2670. SHRI P. RAVINDHRANATH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of shortage of life saving drug-Antivenom, across the country, during the recent past three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take any steps to ensure sufficient supply of Antivenom across the country following the WHO's aim to halve the number of death cases due to snake bites by 2030; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA)**

(a) to (d): "Snake venom antiserum" is a scheduled drug under the Drugs (Pricing Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013), issued under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The production and availability of essential medicines, i.e. scheduled drugs, are monitored by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP). Also, MoHFW monitors the availability of Anti Snake Venom (ASV) for addressing the shortage of life saving-Anti Venom across the country as well.

NPPA received two shortage complaints in respect of "Snake venom antiserum" in 2021 and no complaints regarding non-availability of the "Snake venom antiserum" have been received in NPPA since July, 2021 till 27th July 2023. While three States reported shortage of Anti-Snake Venom (ASV) to National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in the year 2022, no shortage of ASV was reported to NCDC in 2023. States reporting shortage were informed to source them from CRI, Kasauli. Further, as per the information provided by MoHFW, at present eight approved manufacturers in India have annual installed capacity to produce 67.52 Lakhs vials of Anti-Snake Venom per year
