

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:100

ANSWERED ON:20.02.2001

DRUG POLICY AND PRICES OF DRUGS

ANANTRAO GUDHE;CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH;MUDRAGADA PADMANABHAM

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

- (a): whether the Government have received a report from the Experts Committee on the New Drug Policy in the wake of liberalization and globalisation;
- (b): if so, the details thereof;
- (c): the details of the time bound action plan formulated for healthy and faster growth of pharma industry, upgrade and expand pharma education including R&D on the pattern of IT industry to acquire lead position in the emerging global scenario;
- (d): whether the prices of essential and life saving drugs are fixed at the exorbitant rates;
- (e): whether the closure of public sector drugs manufacturing units has resulted in the shortage of essential and life saving drugs;
- (f): the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make essential and life saving drugs available in the market at cheap rates;
- (g): whether any study has been conducted to fix the cost of various drugs;
- (h): if so, the details thereof;
- (i): whether the Government propose to revise the prices of various bulk drugs; and
- (j): if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS ( SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE)

- (a) & (b): The Committee set up to review the present price control mechanism with a view to reducing the rigours of price control has since submitted its report suggesting measures in that direction.
- (c): For healthy and faster growth of pharma industry and for upgrading and expanding pharma education, the Government has established the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPER) with the objective of becoming a center of excellence for advanced studies and research in pharmaceutical sciences.
- (d): Prices of Drugs/Formulations are fixed under the provisions of Drugs(Prices Control) Order, 1995, which does not make a distinction between life saving drugs and other drugs.
- (e): No such reports have been received.
- (f): The Drug Policy, as amended from time to time, is directed towards ensuring the availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices.
- (g) to (j): Detailed cost price studies are conducted with reference to indigenous production of scheduled bulk drugs by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority. Carrying out the cost price study for the purpose of price fixation/revision of the scheduled bulk drugs is an on-going process.