

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:426  
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2001  
DRUG PRICE CONTROL ORDER  
A. VENKATESH NAIK;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a): whether the Union Government propose to dismantle the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO);
- (b): if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c): whether the Government have assessed the impact of dismantling of the DPCO on the life saving drugs;
- (d): if so, the extent to which the poor people would be affected thereby;
- (e): the steps taken by the Government to ensure supply of the life saving drugs at cheaper rates to the poor people; (
- (f): whether the Government have consulted the States on the said issue; and
- (g): if so, the details in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS ( SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA )

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 426 FOR ANSWER THE 17TH APRIL, 2001.

(a) (b) (c) (d) (f) & (g): The Drugs Prices Control Orders are issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to implement the Policy in so far as price controls are concerned. No decision has been taken to do away with the price control regime over drugs and pharmaceuticals. Therefore, the question of dismantling the Drugs Prices Control Order and consultation with States on this issue, does not arise. The domestic drugs and pharmaceutical industry needs support in order to meet the challenges and to avail of the opportunities arising out of liberalization of our economy and the impending advent of the product patent regime. Government has been considering measures to lessen the rigours of the present price control mechanism, where they have become counter productive. Towards this end, Government has decided that the span of price control will be reduced substantially.

(e): The Drug Policy, as amended from time to time, is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices.