

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2482
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2002
DRUGS/MEDICINES FOR TREATMENT OF CANCER
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of drugs and medicines available in India for treatment of Cancer;
- (b) the details of drugs and medicines which are being manufactured in the country for the treatment of Cancer;
- (c) whether it is a fact that some of the drugs and medicines which have been banned in other countries are still being used in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the proposal to lift the ban on the use of Thalidomide, a drug used for the treatment of cancer patients, is under the consideration of the Government; and
- (f) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b): A list of drugs/medicines approved for manufacture/import for the treatment of cancer is enclosed

(Annexure-I).

(c)&(d): No, Sir. It is not correct to say that some of the drugs and medicines which have been banned in other countries are still being used in the country. The drugs and medicines marketed in this country are examined through an Expert Committee on a continuous basis to weed out harmful/irrational drugs.

Certain drugs and formulations withdrawn in some countries at times, continue to be marketed in other countries because the decision to do so is based on risk assessment process which is influenced by a number of factors such as the disease pattern in a country, the varying reactions of certain ethnic groups in a given population to the drug, availability of safer substitutes as well as the cost factor involved in the treatment of a particular disease etc.

(e)&(f): Thalidomide is well known to cause severe birth defects because of this the drug was banned all over the world. However, based on the evidence and study reports USFDA allowed the drug Thalidomide for a treatment of leprosy complications for which no good alternative therapies are available for such patients. It is also reported that Thalidomide is also found useful in the treatment of refractory cases of multiple myeloma. Presently studies are being conducted in India to assess the efficacy and safety of Thalidomide in relapsed or refractory patients of multiple myeloma.

Annexure-I

1. Cyclophosphamide
2. Ifosfamide
3. Chlorambucil
4. Melphalan
5. Busulphan
6. Lomustine
7. Mustine

8. Thiotepa

9. Mesna (urothelial toxicity)
10. Doxorubicin
11. Daunorubicin
12. Mitrozantrone
13. Mitomycin
14. Methotrexate
15. Cytarabine

(Cytosinearabinoside)

16. Fludarabine
17. 5- Fluorouracil
18. Mercaptopurine
19. Thioguanine
20. Vinblastine
21. Vincristine
22. Etoposide
23. Paclitaxel
24. Docetaxel
25. Irenotecan
26. Topotecan
27. Carboplatin
28. Cisplatin
29. Dacarbazine
30. Dactinomycin
31. Hydroxyurea
32. L-asparaginase
33. Azathioprine
34. Cyclosporin
35. Interferon
36. Amifostine
37. Stillboestrol
38. Ethinyloestradiol
39. Megestrolacetate
40. Tamoxifen
41. Flutamide
42. Leuprorelin acetate
43. Imatinib Mesylate (Gleevec)
44. Thymogen (IM 862)
45. Beculatamide