

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3442
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2002
BAN ON ANIMAL TESTING
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

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

- (a) whether ban on testing on animals is creating hurdles in research and development efforts of Indian Pharmaceutical Companies in the country;
- (b) if so, the manner in which the companies are supposed to test the new medicines; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): There is no ban on animal testing in research and development efforts of Indian Pharmaceutical Company in the Country. However, the rules prescribed for animal experimentation and procedure prescribed by CPCSEA (Committee for the purpose of Control and Supervision of experiments on Animals) makes it very difficult for research based industry to use larger animals like Beagle dogs and Monkey. Being a statutory requirement companies have to conduct such studies through private contract research organizations abroad which is very costly.

(b) & (c): Companies are screening the molecules in two stages. In the first phase screening experiments are being done under in-vitro conditions wherever possible. In the second phase these are screened in-vivo conditions only using animal models. Presently most of the work is being conducted on in-vitro cell lines as well as on molecular targets. However animals are also used wherever mandatory and necessary.