

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3482

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2002

BAN ON DRUGS

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned Banned drugs not fully banned yet appearing in The Hindu dated November 21, 2002;
- (b) if so, whether it is a fact that twelve globally banned drugs are still being produced, stocked and freely sold in the country;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof;
- (d) the reasons behind the reluctance to put a ban on the drugs;
- (e) whether the high power expert Committee has failed to put a ban on the sale of banned drugs; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to have a more stringent system to effectively check the entry and regulation of drugs into the country?

Answer

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (f) : Drugs withdrawn in some countries may continue to be used by other countries and decision rests on various factors such as the disease pattern in a country, the varying reactions of certain ethnic groups in a given population to the drug and the availability of safer substitutes as well as the cost factor involved in the treatment of a particular disease. There is no such system as global banning of drugs. However, there is an adequate mechanism to review the status of drugs in India as and when any serious adverse event is reported in international journals or WHO news letters etc. 74 drugs/drug formulation have so far been prohibited/phased out.

The drug or formulations discontinued in the developed countries are assessed in consultation with leading experts in the given specializations. Based on their advice, the matter is placed before the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body which comprises of representatives from the medical profession, the State drug enforcement authorities, experts, institutions, agencies that advise Government on technical issues related to the implementations of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, like whether or not to ban/phase out an existing drug.