

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4593
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
IRRATIONAL COCKTAIL OF DRUGS
A. VENKATESH NAIK;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned 'Need to ban irrational cocktail of drugs' appearing in the Hindu dated December 4, 2002;
- (b) if so, whether the combination drugs are made available to consumers without informing them of their side effects;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ban the irrational cocktail of drugs?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) : Drugs and Drug Combinations considered harmful or irrational have been examined by Expert Committee from time to time and so far 74 categories of drugs/drugs formulations have been prohibited/ phased out.

Banning of irrational combination/formulations of the drugs are continuous process. Fixed dose combination of Norfloxacin with Metronidazole was considered rational by leading medical experts and has therefore been permitted. Though Nalidixic acid and Norfloxacin are quinolone group of drugs, however their safety and efficacy profile is different.

As far as licensing of combination products by State Licensing Authorities is concerned the Central Government has issued strict instructions to all State Drugs Controllers. Further, the Government of India has amended the Rules 69,71,75 and 76 in May 2002 to ensure that State Authorities do not license the new combination drugs.