

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1254  
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2003  
BAN ON DRUGS  
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that Astemizole and Terfenadine banned in foreign countries are still being manufactured and marketed by three pharmaceutical companies, Panacea Biotech, Dr. Reddy's Lab., and Ranbaxy in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b): The matter was taken up with the concerned manufacturers mentioned in the question. M/s. Panacea Biotech and Dr. Reddy's Lab. have stated that they do not manufacture and market any of the two drugs viz. Astemizole and Terfenadine. within the country. However, Dr. Reddy's Lab is manufacturing Astemizole formulation for export only. M/s. Ranbaxy Lab. Ltd. have stated that they do not manufacture and market Astemizole in the country and have discontinued marketing of Terfenadine from January, 2003.