

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2101

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2003

PRICES OF ANTI AIDS DRUG

GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;KAMAL NATH;RAMSHETH THAKUR;SHYAMA SINGH;V. VETRISSELVAN

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently convened a meeting of leading drug companies for a discussion on the possibilities of reducing the prices of HIV-AIDS drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the prices of HIV-AIDS drugs are out of reach of a significant section of the affected people; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the leading drug companies thereto and action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (DR. CHHATTRA PAL SINGH)

(a) & (b) :Yes, Sir. A meeting was held on 17.11.2003 with the pharmaceutical industry producing Anti-retroviral Drugs, under the chairperson-ship of Minister for Health and Family Welfare, to discuss the modalities on affordable Anti-retroviral therapy to AIDS patients.

(c) & (d) :Government is providing anti-retroviral drug, Nevirapine to HIVpositive pregnant women for prevention of Parent to Child Transmission. For post exposure prophylaxis access among health workers in public sector hospitals, anti-retroviral drugs are being supplied through State AIDS Control Societies. Government has waived excise duty on anti-retroviral drugs to make them affordable to HIV/AIDS patients.