

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3120

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006

SALE OF DRUGS AT GROCERY SHOPS

Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Munshiram Shri ;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo
Rao;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has given permission to sell drugs at grocery shops as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara dated July 28, 2006;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether the Government has contemplated to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945;
- (d) if so, whether a booklet containing guidelines to sell only quality drugs at grocery shops is proposed to be given to all such sellers;
- (e) if so, whether suggestions have been invited from common people in this regard;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the further steps proposed to be taken to prevent the sale of spurious drugs at such shops?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

- (a) to (c): The Government has proposed to amend Schedule K to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 to grant exemption from the provisions of sale licences, in respect of certain commonly used drugs which are considered safe for use over long period of time, to permit their sale from non-pharmacy sale outlets.
- (d) The conditions which are required to be observed by such sellers would be provided under the said rules along with exemption.
- (e) & (f): Yes, sir. Gazette notification containing the draft rules has been published in the Gazette of India for comments from the public for consideration before finalizing the amendment to the rules.
- (g): The drugs covered under the exemption would be required to be purchased from licensed manufacturers or dealers and records of such purchases maintained. The drugs would be required to be stored separately and in original unopened containers or strips. The sale of spurious drugs is an offence and would be dealt according to the relevant provisions under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act.