

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3454  
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2004  
RISE IN THE PRICES OF LIFE SAVING DRUGS  
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Shukla Smt. Karuna

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether promotion of drugs in India is likely to be affected with the India joining the International Patent Safety arrangement;
- (b) whether there would be huge increase in the prices of the life saving drugs as a result thereof; (
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the price rise; and
- (d) whether the Government has received any type of proposal from the medical institution in this regard ?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) to (c ): There is no such system like `International Patent Safety arrangement` existing. The Patents Act, 1970, as amended, has provisions that effectively balance and calibrate intellectual property protection with public health, national security and public interest concerns. In order to specifically address public health concerns and ensuring availability of medicines at reasonable prices, it has several provisions like compulsory licensing of patents in case medicine is not available at reasonably affordable prices, provisions to deal with situation of public non-commercial and emergent situations use, provisions for import of medicines at competitive prices; provision for use of invention for the purposes of Government, revocation of patent in public interest and ensuring availability of products as soon as the term of patent is over.

(d): No, sir.