

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1726

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2005

DURG POLICY

Chandrappan Shri C.K.;Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Mohite Shri Subodh;Muqueem Shri Mohammed;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore;Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu)

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

:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend Drugs Pricing Policy of 2002 or announcing a new drug policy and refurbishing the regulatory institutions;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a new policy is likely to be announced or amended ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS & MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (c): The Government announced the `Pharmaceutical Policy 2002` in February 2002. However, a public interest litigation filed in the High Court of Karnataka at Bangalore resulted in an Order dated 12-11-02, which prevented the Government from implementing the price control regime of the Pharmaceutical Policy 2002. This Department filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court of India against the Order of the Karnataka High

4. Court, which has been admitted as SLP (C) No. 3668/2003. The matter is sub-judice before the Supreme Court. A Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (PI) was constituted to examine the span of price control (including trade margin) in the light of National Common Minimum Programme and the observations of the Supreme Court in SLP NO (C) 3668/2003 and to suggest measures for fulfilling the objective of National Common Minimum Programme to ensure the availability of life saving drugs at reasonable prices. This Committee has submitted its interim report to the Government. A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Government on the 20th September, 2005. The Task Force has recommended, inter-alia, for constitution of single regulator of prices of drugs. The Government in consultation with various stakeholders is examining the recommendations of the Task Force. Based on this a new Pharmaceutical Policy is likely to be announced shortly.