

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3627

ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005

REPORT OF SANDHU COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE

Hamza Shri T.K.;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan);Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

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

:

- (a) the present position in the country with regard to the easy availability of life saving drugs at reasonable prices;
- (b) whether the country still depends on imports for certain life saving drugs;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether a Task Force has been constituted to suggest options regarding availability of lifesaving drugs in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Task Force has submitted its report: and
- (g) if so, the salient features thereof and the steps being taken to implement its recommendations?

Answer

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

(a) to (g): The Drug Policies, as amended from time to time, are directed towards ensuring abundant availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices. The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO.95) does not make any distinction between Life Saving drugs and other drugs. There is no specific norms or guidelines to determine as to which drugs can be classified as life

saving drugs. Every drug, in general, is considered useful in saving and prolonging of life.

Import of drugs is governed by the Foreign trade Policy in force and is subject to the provisions of various statutes such as Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules made there under.

The country is self-sufficient in production of most of the drugs. The imports of drugs may not be related to the lack of production in the country, as imports made by manufacturers are for different reasons like availability of cheaper drugs in international market, imports linked to procurement from Principals abroad etc.

A Task Force has also been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Principal Adviser(PP), Planning Commission to explore various options other than price control for achieving the objective of making available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The term of the Task Force has been extended upto 30th April, 2005.