

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6487
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
PRICE OF LIFE SAVING DRUGS
Bauri Smt. Susmita;Khan Shri Sunil

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

- (a) whether the price of life saving drugs which were less than Pakistan and other SAARC countries will be available in lesser price than other countries after the amendment in the Patent Act;
- (b) if so, the details of differences in prices of the life saving drugs among these countries:
- (c) if not, whether the Government proposes to make further amendment in Patent Act;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Through amendment in the Patents Act, 1970, product patent regime has been introduced for drugs (medicines). The existing patent law in the country provides for a strong and comprehensive set of safeguards, and inter-alia, has effective provisions to ensure availability of pharmaceutical products at reasonable price through compulsory licensing. Many of the drugs already in the Indian market, including those in the National List of Essential Medicines 2003, are off-patent and their prices would not get affected by the new patent regime. This also would not have an immediate impact on the availability and prices of medicines.