

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:177

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2007

NEW DRUG POLICY

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram; Hasan Chaudhary Munawwar

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted Pharma Advisory Forum;
- (b) if so, the details and functions thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has kept pending the decision of formulating a new drug policy;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Group of Ministers constituted for this purpose has submitted its report;
- (f) if so, the details of the main points mentioned in the report; and
- (g) the steps being taken by the Government to finalise and announce the said policy immediately?

Answer

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

(a) to (g) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.177 FOR ANSWER ON 23-8-2007 ON THE SUBJECT OF NEW DRUG POLICY.

(a) & (b): The Government constituted a Pharmaceutical Advisory Forum on the 26th July, 2004 to have a meaningful dialogue amongst all the stakeholders on various issues concerning the drug policy viz; ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption and strengthening the indigenous capability for cost effective quality production.

The Forum has wide membership at the National level including Health Ministers and Drug Controllers of all States/Union Territories, representatives from various Drug Industry Associations, NGOs, Consumer Organizations, Chemists Associations Drugs Controller General (I) etc. Further, representatives from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals and National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority are also members of the Forum.

(c) to (g): Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11.1.2007. The Cabinet has referred the Policy to Group of Ministers (GOM). The First meeting of the GOM was held on 10.4.2007. This GOM has not submitted any report. No time frame has been set for finalizing the National Pharmaceuticals Policy.