

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:2

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2006

NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL POLICY

Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently announced the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has received the comments of various Ministries/Departments and pharmaceutical companies on the said policy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the extent to which the new policy is likely to be beneficial for the common man and reduce the prices of essential drugs; and
- (f) the time by which it is likely to be launched?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.2 (2nd position) FOR ANSWER ON 24-7- 2006 ON THE SUBJECT OF `NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL POLICY.

The Government has not announced the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy. However, a Draft Cabinet Note on National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 has been circulated to various Departments/Ministries for seeking their comments and the replies are still awaited. Some of the salient features include Strengthening of Drug Regulatory System. (by Health Department), Strengthening of patent office infrastructure. (by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion), Focus on Research and Development - Process Development, Drug Discovery, Drug Development and Clinical Trials, Human Resources Development in Pharmaceutical Sciences through more institutes like National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Rationalisation of Excise duty on pharmaceuticals, Streamlining System of Bulk Procurement of Drugs by Government. (like the system of Tamil Nadu, Delhi Government), Promotion of Generic Drugs. (in purchase by Government hospitals), Strengthening of Pharma CPSEs, Schemes for providing accessibility of drugs to the poor especially BPL families, Schemes of interest subsidy for implementation of Schedule M (of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945) for Good Manufacturing Practices, Scheme for Settlement of old dues under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979, Re-structuring of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), pricing to be applied to the specific drugs as listed under National List of Essential Medicine, 2003.

After receipt of comments of various departments, the draft policy would be placed before the Cabinet for approval. No specific time frame can be mentioned about the finalisation of the policy. There are several other features in the proposed policy aimed at benefiting the common man. The proposed draft policy also includes special schemes for Below Poverty Line people.