

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:282
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2008
NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL POLICY
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) the reasons for the delay in the finalization of the new National Pharmaceutical Policy;
- (b) the salient features of the new proposed policy;and
- (c) the steps taken to expedite the finalization of the policy?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.282 FOR ANSWER ON 18.12.2008 REGARDING NEW NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL POLICY

(a): The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy prepared by this Department after extensive discussions with various stakeholders was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11-1-2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM has since been constituted and has held four meetings so far on 10.4.2007, 12.9.2007, 30.1.2008 and 30.4.2008. GOM is yet to make its recommendations to the Cabinet. The final decision on the issue of Pharmaceutical Policy can only be taken after GOM takes a decision in this regard. The finalization of the policy is therefore delayed.

(b): The salient features of the Draft National Pharmaceuticat Policy 2006 are; Strengthening of Drug Regulatory System, Strengthening of patent office infrastructure, Focus on Research and Development, Human Resource Development in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rationalisation of Excise duty on Pharmaceuticals, Streamlining System of Bulk Procurement of Drugs by Government, Promotion of Generic Drugs, 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, Greater thrust on Pharma Exports, Restructuring and strengthening of NPPA, Modified system of drug price control by bringing specified essential medicines under price control with enhanced margins, Regulation of Trade margins on generic-generic drugs etc.

(c): Requisite information on clarifications sought by the GOM have already been furnished. The Department is constantly making efforts for expediting the decision of the GOM for early finalization of the Pharma Policy.