

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:415

ANSWERED ON:19.02.2009

REVIEW OF PRICE CONTROL MECHANISM OF MEDICINES

Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted a Group of Ministers to review the price control mechanism of medicines in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): The Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 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. The salient features of the Draft National Pharmaceutical 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, Strengthening of NPPA with greater computerization and better monitoring, Modified system of drug price control, regulation of Trade Margins on generic-generic drugs etc. GOM is yet to make its recommendations to the Cabinet.