

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1402
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2010
BAN ON DICLOFENAC
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether diclofenac a painkiller has caused a large number of death of vultures in the country because of feeding on the carcasses of cattle that were administered this drug;
- (b) if so, the details and the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ban the use of diclofenac and to recommend an alternative medication at its place to save vultures in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) to (d): Studies have indicated that use of Diclofenac in livestock's is the major cause of vulture declines. Vulture are exposed to Diclofenac when they consume carcasses of cattle that were administered this drug. Accordingly, Government of India has vide Notification G.S.R. No. 499(E) dated 4.07.2008 banned the use of Diclofenac and its formulations for animal use under Section 26A of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940. There are alternative medications like Meloxicam, Nimesulide etc., which are permitted for animal use in the country.