

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2271

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2010

CHANGE OF BRAND NAMES OF SAME PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS

Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

(a) whether a number of pharmaceutical companies are marketing different brands based on the same active pharmaceutical ingredients to escape the provisions of drug price control order;

(b) if so, the names of the companies which have changed the brand names of the same active pharmaceutical ingredients in order to avoid monitoring of their sales by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority during each of the last three years and the current year;and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) to (c): Under the provision of DPCO, 1995, the prices of scheduled formulations marketed in different brands based on same active pharmaceutical ingredients by the company are fixed and as such there is no provision in the said order for marketing the scheduled formulation without price approval unless they are specifically exempted from price fixations. It has come to the notice of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) that some companies have shifted manufacturing of their product from drugs to food and nutrition supplements under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and this has enabled them to remain out of price control. Examples observed in this regard are Evion 400mg of M/s Merck, Revital of M/s Ranbaxy, Recharge Plus of M/s Trikio, Soft Z gold of M/s Indochem etc. NPPA has taken up the matter with M/o Health & Family Welfare for appropriate action as the matter relating to composition of drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act as well as adulteration of drugs is under the Drug Controller General of India under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.