

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:523

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2010

SHORTAGE OF VITAMIN C TABLETS

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

(a) whether there is acute shortage of Vitamin `C tablets in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make available adequate quantity of Vitamin `C tablets in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b). There is no acute shortage of Vitamin IC tablets. However, there were some reports in the media that because of the high prices of the bulk drugs, there was shortage of Vitamin `C based formulation. M/s Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (A Government of India Undertaking) also brought to the notice of NPPA that the bulk drug Vitamin `C was available at higher price than the notified price. NPPA vide S.O. No. 127(E) dated 20.01.2010, has revised / increased the prices of Vitamin `C bulk drugs to make it viable to produce the related formulations as per provision of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). NPPA monitors the availability of the drugs in the country through State Drugs Control Administrations. Wherever required, NPPA takes remedial steps for ensuring availability of drugs by impressing upon manufacturers to rush the stocks to the places of shortage.