

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4346

ANSWERED ON:22.04.2010

REMOVAL OF DUTIES ON LIFE SAVING DRUGS

Mishra Shri Mahabal

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

- (a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Policy envisages availability of good quality of medicines at a reasonable price;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to remove* duties on life saving drugs;and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)and (b): Yes, Sir. The salient features of the Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006 which is at present before the Group of Ministers for a decision are; Strengthening of Drug Regulatory System, Strengthening of patent office infrastructure, Focus on Research and Development, Human Resource Development in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rationalization 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) and (d): The National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 which is at present before the Group of Ministers (GOM) for a decision proposes to exempt all anti-Cancer and anti-HIV/AIDS medicines from excise and custom duties etc. and it is expected that the benefit would be passed on to the consumers. Drugs for other life threatening diseases, requiring life long treatment, whether part of National List of Essential Medicines, 2003 or outside it, would also be identified and brought under the public - private partnership model so as to make them available at reasonable prices.