

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2166

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2010

ESSENTIAL DRUGS

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

- (a) whether the World Health Organisation has issued a list of essential drugs for the developing countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to include the names of more drugs in the list of essential drugs under the National List of Essential Medicines; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make available the essential medicines to the poor and needy people at cheap rates?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRVEDI)

(a) & (b): World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a "Model list of essential drugs 2010" and also "Model list of Essential Medicines for Children 2010". These contain various categories of drugs like anesthetics, anticonvulsants, anti infective, antibacterial, antiretroviral, Antimalarial, cardiovascular, anti TB etc.

(c): In order to review and revise the National list of Essential Medicines, 2003 in the context of contemporary knowledge of use of therapeutic products, an expert core committee has been constituted by the Government.

(d): For making available medicines at affordable prices, a campaign by the name of 'Jan Aushadhi' has been launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals. The aim of this campaign is to ensure making available quality medicine at affordable prices for all, especially the poor and the disadvantaged. Under this campaign, low priced quality unbranded generic medicines are made available through Jan Aushadhi stores which inherently are less priced but are of same and equivalent quality, efficacy and safety as compared to branded generic medicines.