

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1850
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010
EXPORT OF GENERIC DRUGS
Natarajan Shri P.R.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Pharmaceutical companies are exporting generic drugs (non-patent) to East African countries at affordable rate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such companies and exports during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Indian generic medicines are fully compliant with TRIPs norms and pricing is very cheap;
- (d) if so, the details of pricing comparison between Indian and MNC pharmaceutical companies;
- (e) whether the East African countries have passed an Anti-Counterfeiting Legislation law in the past;and
- (f) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b): Many of the Indian Pharmaceutical companies have been exporting generic drugs to East African countries at competitive prices. India's Exports of Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals to the East African Countries, during the last three years is as follows:

2007-08 2008-09 2009-10

1,298.54 crores 1,981.16 crores 2,089.27 crores

(c) & (d): Indian companies are aware of the provisions of TRIPS as far as Patent issues are concerned and they are exporting generic medicines only which do not infringe any Patents in the importing countries. Prices of Indian generic medicines are very competitive.

(e) & (f): Some of the African countries like Kenya legislated and some countries like Uganda etc ., contemplated to legislate Anti-Counterfeiting laws last year. Government sent a high-level delegation to Ethiopia in May 2009 during the Conference of Health Ministers of African countries to meet the Health officials of those countries and to explain the implications of the proposed laws and adverse effect on the availability of important medicines like ARVs, Anti-malarial etc., which are very essential for those countries. It is understood that the proposed Anti-counterfeiting law in Kenya was challenged by local NGOs and the same was stayed by the local Courts subsequently.