

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2966  
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2010  
NATIONAL LIST OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES  
Antony Shri Anto

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

- (a) whether the Government has created a National list of Essential Medicines;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the objectives thereof;
- (c) the number of medicines included in the said list;
- (d) whether the Government revises and updates the said list; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) to (e): The National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) was first formulated in 1996 by Government of India. The drugs included in it are considered essential to meet the common contemporary health needs of the general population of the country. It is the general obligation of the health administrators to ensure abundant availability of these drugs in the country. The NLEM is revised and updated from time to time in the context of contemporary knowledge of use of therapeutic products. It was last revised in the year 2003. NLEM 2003 includes 354 medicines. In order to review and revise the NLEM 2003, an expert core committee has been constituted by the Government on 06.07.2010.