

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2600

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2010

SHORTAGE OF LIFE SAVING DRUGS

Dutt Smt. Priya Sunil;Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of life saving drugs in the country and such drugs are being sold at the higher prices in the market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of present stock and availability of the life saving drugs in the country;
- (d) the efforts made by the Government to ensure the availability of such drugs in the country;
- (e) the details of new drugs developed, if any, during the last three years and the current year;
- (f) the various steps and measures taken by the Government to focus on drug research to make India a leader in drug development during the said period; and
- (g) the amount spent during the said period and likely to be spent on the research of new life saving drugs by the Government during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) : Life saving medicines have not been defined in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO,95). NPPA monitors the shortage and availability of the medicines in the country through State Drugs Control Administration. Wherever required, NPPA takes remedial steps for ensuring availability of medicines by impressing upon manufacturers to rush the stocks to the places of shortage. The details of stock of drugs, however, is not being maintained centrally.

There are 74 bulk drugs included in the First Schedule of DPCO, 1995 and prices of these drugs and formulations based on them are fixed with an objective to make these drugs affordable. No one can sell any scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA/Government. As a part of its price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations (which are out of price control). Wherever a price increase of more than 10% per annum is noticed, the concerned manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of formulation in public interest.

(e) to (g): As per the available information following Government programmes provide for the assistance in drug discovery and development in the country:

Sl. No.	Name of Programme	Administered by
---------	-------------------	-----------------

1.	Drugs & Pharmaceutical Research Programme (DPRP)	Department of Science & Technology (DST)
----	--	--

2.	Small Business in Industry Research Initiative (SBIRI)	Department of Biotechnology
----	--	-----------------------------

3.	Biotechnology Industry R&D Assistance Programme (BIRAP)	Department of Biotechnology
----	---	-----------------------------

4.	Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP)	Department of Biotechnology
----	---	-----------------------------

Further as per the available information from Department of Science & Technology, details on expenditure incurred under Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research Programme(DPRP) during the last three years and allocation of funds during the current financial year are as under:

Year	Loan (Rupees in crore)	Grant-in-aid (Rs. In crore)	Total (Rs in crores)
------	------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------

2007-08	60.00	58.00	118.00
---------	-------	-------	--------

2008-09	56.50	40.00	96.50
---------	-------	-------	-------

2009-10	51.00	27.00	78.00
---------	-------	-------	-------

2010-11 (BE)	25.00	25.00	50.00
--------------	-------	-------	-------

Apart from funding R&D projects under the above mentioned Schemes, Government also provides following incentives to pharmaceutical industry for Research & Development in drugs & Pharmaceuticals:

(i) Weighted tax deduction of 200% on R&D expenditure approved under Section 35(2AB) of the Income Tax Act.

(ii) The R&D centers recognized by Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR) are also registered with DSIR for the purpose of availing custom duty exemption on import of R&D equipments.