

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1568

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2011

ESSENTIAL MEDICINES

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

- (a) the policy of the Government regarding the periodical publication and updation of the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEP) in the country;
- (b) whether an expert core committee constituted for the purpose has submitted its report;
- (c) if so, the details of the recommendations made thereby alongwith the follow up action taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) whether the Government has signed any agreement with certain foreign companies to develop and distribute essential and life saving medicines in the country in order to ensure abundant availability of these drugs; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

- (a): The National List of Essential Medicine (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.
- (b)& (c): Yes. The Committee has recommended 348 drugs in NLEM.
- (d) : No.
- (e) Does not arise.