

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2721

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2011

BAR CODE AND UNIQUE NUMBER FOR MEDICINES

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Kumar Shri P.;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes a bar code and a unique numeric code for every strip of medicine to control the menace of spurious drugs in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented;
- (d) whether the Government also proposes to make it mandatory for the drug manufacturers to register their brands; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad in the Criminal (Misc) Writ Petition No. 16212/2008 – Brahmaji vs State of UP and Others is seized of the issue of developing a drugs tracking system. In that connection, the Drugs Consultative Committee, a statutory committee of States' drug regulators under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 has recommended the proposal to have barcode and unique numeric code for every strip of medicine, for consideration of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board, another statutory technical committee under the said Act, and the Government. Further hearing of the case in the Hon'ble Court is scheduled to be held on 11.3.2011. Thus, the matter is sub-judice.

(d) & (e): There is no proposal under consideration of the Government under the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 to make it mandatory for the drug manufacturers to register their brands.