

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:113

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2009

NEW NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL POLICY

Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Pratapsinh Shri Chauhan Prabhatsinh

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

- (a) whether the proposed new National Pharmaceutical Policy will seek to check the rise in the price of essential drugs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for delay in the finalization of the said policy;
- (d) whether the policy was opposed by the pharmaceutical industry;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the time by which the new policy is likely to come into effect ?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a to ff) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 113 FOR ANSWER ON 26.11.2009 REGARDING NEW NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL POLICY

(a) to (f): The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 was prepared by this Department after extensive discussions with various stakeholders and in line with the declared objective of the Government in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM was constituted on 31.1.2007 and had held four meetings on 10.4.2007, 12.9.2007, 30.1.2008 and 30.4.2008.

In the meeting of GOM held on 12.9.2007, presentations were made separately by representatives of Pharmaceuticals Industry and Consumer organizations. During this meeting, GOM interacted with the representatives of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Associations (IDMA), Confederation of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry (CIPI) and Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI). GoM also heard the views of NGOs namely Centre for Consumer Education, - Research, Teaching Training & Testing (CONCERT), Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS), Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) and Voluntary Organization in Interest of Consumer Education (VOICE). The representatives of Pharmaceuticals Industry and Consumer organizations have expressed their perspective regarding the proposals made in the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 including Price Control. It has also been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 (subject to certain conditions and exemptions) in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. GOM constituted on 31.1.2007 has yet give its recommendations to the Cabinet.

After the formation of the new Government, the Department of Pharmaceuticals had recommended on 12.06.2009 for continuation of the Group of Ministers constituted to consider the National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006. The Cabinet Secretariat has re-constituted the GoM on 1.9.2009. The final decision on the issue of Pharmaceutical Policy will be possible after GOM takes a decision in this regard.