

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1028
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2011
UID AND BAR CODING OF MEDICINES
Kumar Shri P.;Mirdha Dr. Jyoti

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for all the medicines and other products such as gel, ointment etc. being manufactured, marketed or exported out of the country to have a bar code and a unique randomly generated numeric code (UID);
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the likely benefits and impact of the decision including on their prices in the country;
- (c) whether there has been opposition to the proposed system by certain pharmaceutical companies;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to consult various stakeholders and address their concerns in the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) to (e): In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed in the case W.P. No. 16212/2008- Brahmaji Vs State of U.P., a Task Force has been constituted by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare under the Chairmanship of Shri H. Koshia, Commissioner, FDA, Gujarat vide its Order dated 10th March, 2011 to look into the issues of networking and suggesting the requirements for software for drugs manufacturing tracking system. Three meetings of the Task Force have so far been held in which representatives of pharmaceutical industry also participated. Some of them have certain reservations about the feasibility of the proposed measure as the same may result in increase in production cost thereby making the medicines more costly. The final report of the Task Force is to be placed before the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad for its perusal and appropriate directions.

As regards exports, the Director General of Foreign Trade in the Department of Commerce has issued a Public Notice No.21 (RE-2011)/2009-2014 dated January 10, 2011 mandating that all exports of pharmaceuticals and drugs from India are to be made under a trace and track surveillance system from July 1, 2011. The action taken by Director General of Foreign Trade is expected to enhance India's claim as a credible generic pharma supplier and at the same time mandate an internal discipline among the exporting community.