

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:426

ANSWERED ON:02.09.2011

TASK FORCE ON PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted a task force to evolve a long-term strategy for addressing the issues faced by the Indian pharmaceutical industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the important issues taken up thereby;
- (c) the terms of reference of the said task force;
- (d) whether the task force has since submitted its report;
- (e) if so, the details of the measures suggested to make India the hub of drug discovery, research and development; and
- (f) the follow-up action taken/proposed by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 426 FOR 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2011

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. A Task Force was constituted by the Government in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on 31st March, 2011, for the purpose of formulating a long term policy for strengthening the drug sector in the country. The terms of reference for the Task Force are as under:

- i) Evolve a short, medium & long-term policy & strategy to make India a hub of drug discovery, research & development.
- ii) Formulate and recommend strategies to further the interests of Indian pharmaceutical industry in the light of issues related to intellectual property rights and also strategies to capitalize the opportunity of drugs worth 60-80 billion US dollars going off-patent over the next 5 years.
- iii) Evolve and suggest policy options/measures to assure National Drugs Security i.e.
 - # Promoting indigenous production of bulk drugs.
 - # Preventing takeover of Indian Pharma companies by Multinational Corporations (MNCs)
 - # Pricing of drugs.
 - # Promotion of generic drugs and adequate availability of quality generic drugs at affordable prices.
- iv) Recommend measures to tackle the problem of spurious and adulterated drugs.
- v) Devise roadmaps for implementation of all recommended strategies and measures.
- vi) Consider and advise on any other issue incidental to the above.

(d) to (f): The first meeting of the Task Force was held on 6th June, 2011, wherein it decided to constitute the following 6 sub-groups to deliberate on different terms of reference of Task Force: -

1. Drug Discovery and Research & Development
2. Intellectual Property Rights

3. Promoting Indigenous Production of Bulk Drugs

4. Takeover of Indian Pharma Companies

5. Pricing of Drugs & Generic Drugs

6. Spurious and Adulterated Drugs

These Sub-Groups have not yet submitted their reports to the Task Force. The Chairman of the Task Force has been requested to submit the report to the Government at the earliest.