

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3179
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2011
DRUGS UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether drugs have been included under the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act. 2005;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government has made any provision under the said Act to keep a check on the prices of those patented drugs of multi-national companies which are sold at international prices in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF, K. V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c): Yes Madam. The commodities drugs have been included in the Schedule under Section 2 A of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority fixes or revises prices of bulk drugs, as listed in its First Schedule.