

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2806

ANSWERED ON:30.03.2012

QUALITY AND PRICES OF AYURVEDIC HOMOEOPATHIC DRUGS

Rajesh Shri M. B.;Rana Shri Kadir

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

- (a) the mechanism put in place/ proposed by the Government to regulate manufacturing, marketing and quality of Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic medicines in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of the rising prices of these medicines in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken/ proposed by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN)

(a): The Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules thereunder regulate licensing for manufacture for sale of Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic drugs in the country. Under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, the State Government has been empowered to appoint State Licensing Authority for enforcement of provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder. The Department of AYUSH has taken a number of measures including the following for regulation of Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic medicines:

1. Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic (AU&H) Pharmacopoeias have been published containing quality standards of 600 single drugs & 152 compound formulations of Ayurveda, 298 single drugs and 100 compound formulations of Unani and 1016 Homeopathic drugs.
2. Compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) has been made legally mandatory for licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathic drugs.
3. Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine (PCIM) has been established to address quality concerns and develop quality standards for Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines.
4. Department has launched a scheme for voluntary quality certification of ASU drugs in collaboration with the Quality Council of India.
5. Shelf life of various categories of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drugs and the use of preservatives, additives etc. in the manufacture of these drugs have been notified.
6. 26 State Drug Testing Laboratories and 46 State Pharmacies have been provided financial assistance for strengthening of infrastructure required for quality testing and production of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathic drugs in public sector. Department has recognized 44 private Drug Testing Laboratories for testing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathic drugs.

(b)to(d): The pricing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathic medicines is not covered under the Drugs Prices Control Order (DPCO) 1995. By and large the rise of price of these medicines is usual in nature. The price of some medicines may have increased higher due to market forces.

Government has set up National Medicinal Plants Board to coordinate matters related to medicinal plants sector. In order to keep the prices of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drugs under control, it is important to keep the price of raw material within reasonable limits.

To augment supply of medicinal plants, National Medicinal Plants Board has been supporting cultivation of identified medicinal plants by farmers.