

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5178

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012

ONLINE TRADING IN BANNED DRUGS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of online pharmacies trading in banned drugs of psychotropic substances within and across the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government has formed an expert panel under the Narcotics Control Bureau to suggest measures to check the ongoing illegal trade;
- (d) if so, whether the panel has given its recommendation to the Government;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the response of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): Only two illicit internet/online pharmacies have been detected on 31.09.2009 and 21.09.2011 respectively by the Narcotics Control Bureau in the last three years.

(c) to (f): The internal committee of Narcotics Control Bureau has recommended that a Committee involving the following stakeholders for establishing control mechanisms with manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers of controlled substances be formed at the Government level:-

Internet service providers

Providers of financial services (e.g. banking, credit card and electronic payment services)

Pharmaceutical associations

Ministry of Health

Law enforcement agencies (Police and Customs) and postal services.

Commercial entities providing access to the internet such as internet cafes and wireless local area network providers.

Office of the Drug Controller.