

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:271

ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009

MEDICINE FOR SWINE FLU

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

- (a) whether there is any restriction on buying and sale of Oseltamivir an antiviral medicine for combating the Swine Flu;
- (b) if so, the reasons for creating such monopoly in supply of the medicine;
- (c) the number of companies or retail outlets authorised for sale of such antiviral medicine in the country;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to bring down the price of Swine Flu medicine;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate supply of such medicine in the market?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

- (a) Yes. There is a restriction on retail sale of Oseltamivir in this country.
- (b) Unrestricted use of Oseltamivir will result in development of resistance against the only oral drug effective against Influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu).
- (c) Any Company or retail outlets who has the license to sell, stock or distribute drugs specified under Schedule X to the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 may sell Oseltamivir. As per information available at office of Drug Controller General of India, there is about 10500 chemists shops holding Schedule 'X' retail/ wholesale license in the country.
- (d) & (e) No. Oseltamivir does not fall under First Schedule of Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO) 1995.
- (f) Department of Pharmaceuticals is holding meetings with concerned companies regularly to monitor the availability.