

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2209  
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012  
SIDE-EFFECTS OF DRUGS  
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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the mechanism put in place by the Government for monitoring and periodical review of scientific literature on the potential side-effects of drugs in the country;
- (b) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to certain medicines being prescribed for various diseases including diabetes having serious side effects on health;
- (c) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (d) the corrective measures taken/proposed by the Government in this regard;and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to revise the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2011 in view of the potential side-effects of certain drugs in the said list?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): In hospitals, New Drug Approval Committees are generally constituted which review medicines to be used by the hospitals in their formularies. Individual patients also report the side-effects of drugs to the treating doctors. The Pharmacovigilance Programme of India also collects data regarding adverse drug reactions. The reports of serious side effects and the facts of prohibition/ban of these drugs in other countries, if any are placed before the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) for consideration and recommendation.

(e) The National List of Essential Medicine (NLEM) is revised and updated from time to time in the context of contemporary knowledge of use of therapeutic products. Cost-benefit analysis and availability of safer substitutes are taken into account while banning any drug.