

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2136
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2012
MARKETING OF DRUGS BY DRUG FIRMS
Adhi Sankar Shri

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the drug manufacturing firms are allegedly marketing food supplements as drugs to escape the price ceiling net;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether in a letter to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare it cited the example of food supplement such as Ranbaxy's Revital and German based Merek Kgat's vitamin E product Evin were getting marketed as drug earlier; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check such practices?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) to (d): No, Sir. On the contrary, some drugs companies have shifted the manufacturing of drugs to food and nutrition supplements under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. This has enabled them to remain out of price control. Examples observed in this regard are Evion 400mg of M/s Merck, Revital of M/s Ranbaxy, Recharge Plus of M/s Trikiio, Soft Z gold of M/s Indchem etc. Accordingly, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was informed about such practices and requested to take corrective action to prevent vitamins and mineral, which are used for treatment of various ailments, from getting out of price control.

The Ministry Health and Family Welfare has informed that different drug / healthcare products manufacturers have been manufacturing food, dietary and nutritional supplements for a long time in this country based on the license issued to them under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954. These products were earlier being manufactured under license from different licesing authorities under the PFA Act and now under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006. The issue, as to whether these food, dietary and nutritional supplements are food or drug has been pending before the Patna High Court.