

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:660
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013
EXPORT OF PHARMACEUTICALS
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up a Consultative Group comprising Government officials and industry representatives to suggest the ways for increasing the export of pharmaceutical products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the mandate of the Group;
- (c) whether the Group has submitted its report to the Government and if so, the details thereof along with the recommendations made by the said Group and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to issue new regulations for the pharmaceutical products; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the proposed regulation is likely to be helpful in countering adverse campaign against the quality of Indian drugs in the foreign countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN)

(a) & (b) : A Consultative Group under the Chairmanship of Commerce & Industry Minister was constituted on 23rd December, 2010 for a regular institutional mechanism of consultation between Government of India and captains of Indian Pharma industry with the objective of developing India's brand image as a source of affordable, safe and quality medicines. The Group is expected to advise the Government on way forward for increasing

India's share in global pharmaceutical market, developing quality infrastructure for long term sustainability for exports, ways of strengthening innovations and promoting investments in Pharma sector for exports.

(c) : A meeting of the Consultative Group was held on 3rd July, 2012 where after detailed discussions a number of suggestions were made for strengthening Indian Pharmaceutical industry. This includes recommendations on a big push for promoting R&D and innovation, strengthening of infrastructure and helping the industry in overcoming trade barriers in various countries across the globe. Various issues which need to be taken have been flagged for remedial measures by Government.

(d) and (e) : With the objective of ensuring that only quality drugs are exported from India, Government of India has mandated trace and track features on export of pharmaceutical products from the country. This initiative of the Government would help in countering the adverse campaign against quality of Indian drugs with the international markets. Besides, Government has continued its efforts with the international agencies such as World Health Organization, World Trade Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, etc. and in the bilateral and plurilateral fora to clear any doubts about the quality of Indian medicines.