

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4855

ANSWERED ON:23.12.2014

RECOMMENDATION OF TASK FORCE

Gutha Shri Sukender Reddy;Ramachandran Shri Krishnan Narayanasamy

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up a Task Force with regard to availability of drugs at reasonable prices;
- (b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Task Force along with the follow up action/ steps taken by the Government on the said recommendations;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up Genome Valley between East and West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh to develop the pharmacy sector; and
- (d) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANS RAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a) & (b): High Powered Inter-Ministerial Co-ordination Committee (HPIMCC) set up on 5 March, 2010 to implement Government commitment to provide quality medicines at affordable prices had decided to constitute two Working Groups of which one pertained to pricing of medicines. This group was expected to suggest ways to make the drugs affordable. The Working Group recommended:

- (i) Broad criteria to bring drugs under price control
- (ii) Monitoring of prices
- (iii) A single state agency be authorised to decide the price through Tenders for public health programmes
- (iv) Reduce Inter-Brand Price differences
- (v) Need to rationalize prices of imported medicines
- (vi) keep a check on Launch Price
- (vii) MNREGA Labour to be covered by Health Insurance
- (viii) Need to include more drugs in NLEM
- (ix) JAS(Jan Aushadhi Scheme) & RSBY(Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna) to be made sustainable
- (x) A Road Map needed to meet the manpower requirement
- (xi) Wide publicity be given to the policies & prices fixed
- (xii) Cover hilly, tribal and inaccessible areas on priority basis:
- (xiii) Prices of medical devices to be rationalized
- (xiv) Mechanism to improve availability of medicines at reasonable prices- Compulsory Licensing
- (xv) Use Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in a coordinated manners
- (xvi) Enforcement of Competition Act.

The recommendation of the Working Group were placed before the HPIMCC and the concerned Departments were requested to take further action.

(c): No Sir, such a proposal is presently not under consideration of the Government,

(d): Does not arise.