

**Title:** Need to withdraw the move for disinvestments of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. - Laid.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALUCTTA NORTH WEST) : The first Public Sector Drug Unit, M/s Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL), is now on sale-card. Since inception (1954), HAL not only produced major life-saving drugs in the form of raw materials as well as formulations but it made drugs cheaper too. Really HAL played a pivotal role in making the pharmaceutical industry of the country from Rs. 10 crores in 1947 to Rs. 20,000 crores presently.

Over the years, during any national disasters, like earthquake (Latur, Bhuj), break out of epidemics (plague in Gujarat, gastro-intestinal tract infections due to flood, cyclone, fear of anthrax), etc. HAL has sent anti-biotics and other formulations to meet the need. It is an irony that recently this prime plants and also the R & D facility were leased out to a private entrepreneur (RPG life sciences). Earlier also (in the year 1993), the major portion of the plants were handed over to a 50 : 50 joint venture company, namely HALMAXGB.

HALMAXGB, though has trebled production of penicillin and its sale but due to open market policy of the government it is incurring losses and failed to deposit the lease-amount to HAL (due to approx. Rs. 65 crores) – thus has made HAL further sick.

I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to prevent the out-right sale of HAL, for the sake of millions of Indians and ensuring urgent government's action in restoring HAL with all its set-up.