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Title: Need to ensure availability of generic drugs at reasonable price in the market and make Government procurement directly from the drug-manufacturers.

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY (KANDHAMAL): The Government is encouraging use of generic drugs and have advised the doctors to prescribe these medicines. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that generic medicines were being purchased by CGHS and other Government agencies at MRP. Now after the intervention of Supreme Court these are being purchased at a discount of 27% whereas generic drugs are available to chemists in the market at a discount of 60% - 70% but are being sold to public at Maximum Retail Price. The Government should streamline supply of generic drugs and should ensure their availability at reasonable price and should evolve separate pricing policy for generic drugs. The Government should purchase drugs directly from manufacturers and not from local chemists and wholesalers. All State Governments should also be advised to follow the suit to ensure cheap and easy availability of generic drugs.