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Title: Need to take initiative to make critical drugs affordable to poor patients.

SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS (WAYANAD): I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India on a very important and urgent matter of public importance. It is with respect to the price of life saving drugs.

The patent holders are great and big multinational companies. They are exploiting the poor patients in India. Recently, an incident took place. Now the Media is discussing this very important matter. Nexavar is a drug that is used for kidney and liver cancer. The multinational giant Bayer is producing this drug Nexavar. They have got the patents.

**18.00 hrs.**

They were charging Rs.2.84 lakh for a month's dosage of 120 pills. No poor man can afford it. However, about four or five days back the Controller-General of Patents gave a compulsory licence to an Indian firm called Natco Pharma and Natco Pharma is manufacturing the same drug at a price of Rs.8,880. That is how the price of that drug has come down from Rs.2.84 lakh to Rs.8,880. If the price of one life-extending medicine can be reduced in that manner, why cannot the prices of other patented medicines also be controlled like that? I, therefore, urge the Government to discuss with the patent holders and fix the prices of life-saving and life-extending drugs in such a way that they become affordable to the poor people

**सभापति महोदय :** शून्य काल की समाप्ति तक हम सदन का समय बढ़ा रहे हैं।