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Title : Need to conduct a study to identify life-saving medicines in order to bring them under 'compulsory licensing' mechanism.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMATHITTA): I congratulate the Government in using the "compulsory licensing" for the manufacturing of anti-cancer drug. Compulsory licensing empowers the Government to bypass a patent owner's rights after three years and order the manufacture and sale of life-saving drugs at the cheapest price possible. After invoking compulsory licensing to an anti-cancer medicine, its price was plummeted by 97 per cent from its original cost of Rs. 284,000 for a month's dosage. Today it is available at the rate of Rs. 8800 and comparatively affordable to the three million cancer patients in the country. The Indian Patent Act of 2005 allows the Government to apply compulsory licensing if a patented product is not adequately supplied or available at a reasonable price. Unfortunately, many of the life-saving medicines are not accessible to the poor masses in the country due to the above reasons. Therefore, I request the Government to urgently conduct a study to identify the life-saving medicines belong to the aforesaid category and bring them under the compulsory licensing mechanism.