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Title: Regarding alleged lapse in approving several drugs by Central Drugs Standard Central Organisation.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BOLPUR): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for allowing me to raise an important issue of public importance. This is concerning a really serious issue for the people of our country.

Yesterday, the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare has presented two Reports in this House, namely, the 58th and 59th Reports of the Standing Committee, which are related to the functioning of an important institution, namely, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and serious indictment has been made by the Standing Committee of Health and Family Welfare on CDSCO regarding their functioning.

In the recent past, about 33 new drugs have been approved by the CDSCO -- between January 2008 and October 2010 -- without undergoing adequate clinical trial for safety on human beings before marketing them. For example, one drug called Letrozole is an anti-cancer drug, which is being marketed by a multi-national company originally meant for treatment of breast cancer. But surprisingly, that drug is being used in our country as a fertility drug to treat infertility in young women in our country. This drug has proven side-effects on the reproductive system like chromosomal abnormalities leading to congenital anomaly of the babies.

Surprisingly, these sorts of drugs get approved bypassing the prescribed norms of the Government. It indicates that officials of CDSCO seem to have colluded with private commercial interests of the multinational pharma industries thereby compromising the health of hundreds and thousands of people in our country.

So, I urge upon the Government to take stringent action against those involved in this scam. Sir, three hon. Ministers are here and I want a response from them on this issue. It is really a national concern. Let the Minister respond on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: During 'Zero Hour', you can raise the issue, and it is up to them to respond.