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Title: Need to withdraw the ban on Pioglitazone, an anti diabetic medicine.

SHRI N. PEETHAMBARA KURUP (KOLLAM): Pioglitazone medicine used the insulin of the poor. Experts in the field have advised the Central Government that ban on this medicine and be made market with a certain warning. However, the Central Govt. is delaying its decision in this regard. Since Pioglitazone has been withdrawn from the market the stocks available in the hands of patients have exhausted. With the hope that Pioglitazone will be available soon in the market, the patients are reluctant to go for the costly medicines like gliptins drug or insulin injection. Doctors are of the opinion that as the medicine for diabetes cannot be postponed even for a single day they have got no other option but to advise the patients to go for new medicines or injection. However, since the cost of the new medicine is too high, many patients are not accepting this advise. Many patients are hoping that Pioglitazone will be available soon and they can start using the medicine.

During the discussion of experts and panel of doctors with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 11 July, 2013 and with the Drug Technical Advisory Board it emerged that as is being done in countries like America, the medicine should be made available in the market with a black box warning. Black box warning is to caution the patients that excessive use of the medicine will result in side effects and there should be a control in its intake.

While the cost of Pioglitazone is rupees one or two the gliplins category medicine will cost upto Rs.40/-. The decision to ban Pioglitazone without any warning has led to the organisation of the experts doctors called the Research Society for Study of Diabetes in India to pass a resolution expressing concern in this regard.

Keeping in view the poor diabetic patients in mind, I strongly appeal to the Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare to immediately withdraw the decision to ban Pioglitazone medicine in the country.