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Title: Regarding spiralling price rise of life saving drugs.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: My submission is in respect of spiralling price rise of life saving medicines....(*Interruptions*) I am on my legs, please....(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the submission of Mr. N.K. Premachandran.

...(*Interruptions*)â€Œ\*

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Recently, the Indo-US Business Council, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and US Chamber of Commerce revealed that the Government of India has given assurance to the United States of America that compulsory licensing provision of the Indian Patent Act of 2005 will not be applied in future. That has come out almost in all the newspapers.

Madam Speaker, the Indian Patents (Amendment) Act of 2005 was enacted by this Parliament on the basis of Doha Declaration of 2001. By virtue of Doha Declaration, developing countries are entitled to impose compulsory licensing system for protecting the public health

HON. SPEAKER: You can speak on it during the Budget discussion.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam, it is a very important point.

Many developing countries have imposed the compulsory licensing system. There are 17 countries which have already imposed it on 24 medicines. In India, we have also applied for this provision with regard to medicines for cancer treatment. In 2012, Mr. P.H. Kurian, Indian Patents Controller issued a historically significant order to an Indian company NACO to produce medicines for cancer treatment. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please give it in brief and conclude.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Then, what happened is that earlier the cost of medicine manufactured by foreign companies for one month was Rs.2,80,428, we manufactured and marketed the medicine for Rs.8,800. It happened because we had applied for compulsory licensing system and the Indian indigenous pharmaceutical industry was protected by it. But, now an assurance has been given to the industry in America that this compulsory licensing will not be applied for.

My second point is that, on the one hand, the price controlling mechanism over medicines has been taken away and, on the other, the Customs Duty has also been exempted on it. As a result, the prices of the life saving medicines for treatment of AIDS and cancer have become very high.

So, I want a response from the Government in this regard and I request that some urgent action should be taken on it. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: S/Shri K.C. Venugopal, Rabindra Kumar Jena, Jitendra Chaudhury, Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Dr. K. Kamaraj and Dr. A. Sampath are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri N.K. Premachandran.