

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:309
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003
LICENSING POWER
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Human Rights Commission, in an order issued in 1999, recommended that the centre examine the possibility of taking over the entire system of licensing i.e. taking over the States power of granting licence for drug manufacturing units;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the matter hanging fire since then; and
- (c) the present status in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

- (a) Yes, Sir. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi vide its order dated March 31, 1999, recommended to Government of India to examine the entire system of licensing etc. under effective Central Government.
- (b) & (c) Government of India have constituted a Committee of experts on January 27, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to undertake a comprehensive review of the drugs regulatory system in the country including the problem of spurious and substandard drugs and recommend remedial measures to deal with this problem effectively. The possibility of Central Government assuming the responsibility of granting manufacturing licences was also examined by the Committee. The Committee has submitted its final report in November, 2003 which is under examination for taking further necessary action.