

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:215  
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005  
BAN ON HAZARDOUS DRUGS  
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

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

- (a) whether according to a study conducted by the National Commission on Macro Economics and Health, certain drugs are not only non-essential but also hazardous;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ban the manufacture and distribution of the same; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 215 FOR 7TH DECEMBER, 2005.

The background papers to the Report of the National Commission on Macro Economics and Health include a paper by Shri S. Sakthivel, Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi on 'Access to Essential Drugs and Medicine'. This paper has made certain observations regarding irrationality of 10 branded products in the context of production priority of the drug industry. It is observed in the paper that 'Ten of the top 25 products sold in India in 1999 belonged to either one of these categories; Blood tonic, cough expectorent, non-drug, Analgesics, Nutrients, liver drug etc. which are either hazardous, non-essential or irrational'. These are Becosules, Corex, Liv-52, Dexorgange, Digene, Combiflam, Polybion, Glucon-D Evion and Revital.

Vitamin formulations like Becosule, Polybion and Evion, like other vitamin combinations, are marketed in accordance with the standards prescribed under Drugs and Cosmetics Rules and are not considered irrational. Corex Syrup is used as Cough Syrup and Digene as Antiacid for symptomatic relief. Dexorange is a haematinic preparation containing element iron and is indicated for anemia which is prevalent in the country. Combiflam is an analgesic indicated for inflammation and pain for short term use. None of these products are considered as irrational or harmful in their intended use, as they are mainly used for symptomatic relief.

There is no proposal to ban the manufacture and distribution of these products at the present juncture.