

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3964  
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006  
REPORT OF MASHELKAR COMMITTEE  
Athawale Shri Ramdas

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

- (a) the date on which Dr. Mashelkar Committee was constituted to keep an eye on the spreading business of medicines in the country;
- (b) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;
- (c) if so, the details of recommendations made; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

- (a) Government of India decided to constitute an expert committee in January 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar to examine all the aspects of the drug regulatory infrastructure in the country and the problem of spurious / substandard drugs in the country.
- (b) Yes, the committee has submitted its report to the Government in November, 2003.
- (c) The Committee made wide ranging recommendations for strengthening the drug regulatory system in the country including several amendments in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act & Rules, creation of a Central Drug Authority, enhancement of the penalty provided for offences related to manufacture and sale of spurious drugs, under the D&C Act and Rules.
- (d) A Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2005 has already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha for enhancement of penalties for drug related offences under the D&C Act based on Mashelkar Committee's recommendations and in accordance with the decision of the Cabinet.

A note for consideration of the Cabinet on formulation of a Central Drug Authority of India as recommended by the Mashelkar Committee has been prepared.