

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:228
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2004
EXPERT PANEL
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

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

(a) whether an Expert Panel was formed under the Chairmanship of DG,ICMR to probe the issue of Filgrastim with regard to scuffle between Dr. Reddy Labs and Nicholas Piramal : and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the findings of the Expert Panel?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. M/s Nicholas Piramal had contested that filgrastim (Grastim), a rDNA technology derived product of Dr. Reddy labs (DRL) is not identical to that of imported filgrastim (Neupogen) of M/s F. Hoffmann La Roche, and had also protested against the use of INN name Filgrastim by Dr. Reddy's Labs. Considering the complex nature of these proteins molecules obtained through rDNA based technology, it was decided to refer the complaints to the Expert committee headed by DG, ICMR.

The expert committee in its report dated 22.8.2003 concluded that:

- As Grastim and Neupogen are identical according to all test carried out, DRL is entitled to use the INN Filgrastim for their recombinant human methionine G-CSF,

- In view of the WHO-INN committee's recommendations that in the choice of the brand name, stem of the INN should not be used, DRL should not use the brand name Grastim for their product.