

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:240
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
BANNED DRUGS
Satheedevi Smt. P.

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

- (a) whether a number of drugs, which are banned globally, are being sold in India ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether some drugs, which are banned in the country, are still available in the market ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard ;
- (e) whether any committee has been constituted to report on the banned drugs ;
- (f) if so, the details thereof ;
- (g) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon ?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 240 FOR 14TH MARCH, 2007

There is nothing like `Globally Banned Drugs` or `Internationally banned Drugs`. Drugs withdrawn in some countries can continue to be used by other countries. The decision rests on various factors, such as the disease pattern in the country, varying reactions of certain ethnic groups in a given population to the drug and the availability of safer substitutes as well as the cost factor involved in the treatment of particular disease.

There is an adequate mechanism to review the status of drug formulations in India as and when any serious adverse event is reported in the international journals, WHO newsletters or when a drug formulation is reported to have been withdrawn in some country. The use of drug so reported is assessed in consultation with the experts based on available technical information, benefit-risk ratio, local needs etc. The matter is further considered by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. So far 78 categories of drugs/ formulations, considered irrational or harmful in the context of present knowledge, have been prohibited through notification under Section 26-A of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Drugs banned under Section 26-A are not allowed to be manufactured and marketed in the country. As per information available with the Drug Controller, no such drug is being marketed.

A National Pharmacovigilance Programme has been launched in 2004 to capture data on adverse drug events in the country.

In view of the repeated coverage in the media alleging availability of Internationally banned drugs in India, a high level Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Health in the year 2001, under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services including Members of Parliament to go into this problem and to suggest measures to resolve it. The Committee in its Report, submitted in May, 2002, expressed that there is adequate mechanism in the country to examine and prohibit sale of drugs which are unsafe, irrational and which may be prohibited in some countries.