

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:120
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2004
NEW DRUG POLICY
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently decided to introduce a new drug policy,
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) the time by which the new policy is likely to be implemented;
- (d) whether any safeguards have been provided therein to control the rising prices of medicines and pharmaceutical products, particularly life-saving drugs, and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS , FERTILIZERS & MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENTS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 120 (20th position) FOR ANSWER ON 13-7-2004 REGARDING ` NEW DRUG POLICY`

The Government announced the `Pharmaceutical Policy 2002` in February 2002. The main objectives of this Policy are, inter alia, ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption and strengthening the indigenous capability for cost effective quality production. However, a public interest litigation filed in the High Court of Karnataka at Bangalore resulted in an Order dated 12.11.02 which stopped the Government from implementing the price control regime of the Pharmaceutical Policy 2002. This Department filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court of India against the Order of the Karnataka High Court, which has been admitted as SLP(C) No. 3668/2003.