

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3751  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006  
STORE AND SALE OF DRUGS BY GROCERY SHOPS  
Jagannath Dr. M.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to allow neighbourhood grocery stores to stock up and sell a range of potentially dangerous non-steroidal and anti-inflammatory and gastrointestinal drugs without any prescription from the medical practitioner;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the names of the drugs which are proposed to be allowed to store and sell by the grocers; and
- (d) the modus operandi to be followed by the Government to keep vigil over the grocers to ensure that all drugs specify the correct prescription particularly in case of children like quantity, frequency and duration of the intake ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS & MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) to (d): On the basis of examination of the issue of permitting certain household remedies as Over the Counter Drugs (OTC) by sub-committee of Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) and its report the Government published amendment rule under Gazette Notification GSR 471(E) dated 4.8.2006 regarding amendment of Schedule K of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. The proposed amendment in Schedule K gives relief to certain household remedies/commonly used drugs whose names are mentioned in the said Gazette Notification from the purview of sale licence. According to this Gazette Notification, the OTC drugs shall be exempted from the provisions of Chapter IV of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder, which require them to be covered by a sale licence subject to the following conditions:

- a) No drug shall be sold or stored after the date of expiration of potency recorded on its container, label or wrapper, or in violation of any statement or direction recorded on such container, label or wrapper.
- b) Drugs shall be purchased from a manufacturer or dealer licensed under these Rules, and records of such purchase shall be maintained.
- c) Drugs are stored separately.
- d) Drugs are sold in the original unopened container of licensed manufacturers, provided that in case of drugs packed in strips, single strips can be sold.