

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:198
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
NON AVAILABILITY OF DRUGS
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the non-availability of a number of drugs in the country including sleeping pills and essential drugs for different types of patients;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 198 FOR 16TH MARCH, 2005

Reports were recently received regarding some shortages of Psychotropic drugs in the country. The shortage of the drugs was mainly because of the unwillingness of the wholesalers and retail ers of drugs in maintaining consignment note in Form 6 as required under Rule 67 of the NDPS Act and Rules, 1985.

Under Rule 67 of NDPS Act, 1985, the consignor and the consignee were required to maintain a consignment note in Form 6 for transportation of Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs. However, this condition was kept in abeyance by the Ministry of Finance in consultation with the Ministry of Health by the circular No. 664/39/86/OPIUM dated 29.5.1986. Accordingly, the consignment note was not being maintained by drugs wholesalers and retailers. Recently, however, the concerned authorities of the Narcotic Control Bureau started insisting on the maintenance of such note by the wholesalers and retailers. Consequently, the traders boycotted the stocking of NDPS drugs because of which there was a temporary shortage of these drugs in the market. Since a large number of representations were received from all over the country, the Ministry of Finance in consultation with Ministries of Home and Health have issued notification No. GSR 104(E) dated 25.2.2005 wherein the requirement of maintaining consignment note in Form 6 as required under Rule 67 of NDPS Act and Rules has been amended to read as "Provided that consignment note in Form 6 shall not apply in cases where the sale of the Psychotropic Substance is accompanied by a sale bill or invoice or cash memo or any other document duly signed by the consignor or his authorized signatory, which shall include the following information about the consignment:

- (a)name, address and license number of the consignor and the consignee;
- (b)description, batch number and quantity;
- (c)mode and particulars of transport;

Provided further that such document shall be preserved by consignor and consignee for a period of two years for inspection by the officers referred to in sub-rule (4) above. Explanation: Where the consignee is a research institution, registered medical practitioner, hospital or dispensary, the requirement of incorporating license number of consignee shall not be applicable.

In view of the above notification, the main grievance of the traders has been removed and the drugs will be available freely and there should not be any shortage in the near future for such drugs.