

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1655  
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2014  
SMS FACILITY FOR PATIENTS  
Puttaraju Shri C.S.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to launch Short Message Service (SMS) facility by which patients can get information about affordable alternative to the medicine prescribed by the doctors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of the facility;
- (c) the time by which the facility is likely to be launched;
- (d) whether consultation with doctors is necessary for the patients before purchasing the affordable alternative medicine under the said facility; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) to (e): NPPA has brought out two advertisements for calling tender for SMS based Helpline .No credible agency which possesses complete, reliable and accurate data on price of medicines across the country could be identified. Further, no agency was ready to own up the responsibility of the authenticity of the data.It was therefore felt not feasible to implement the Scheme "SMS based Helpline" at this stage.