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Title : Regarding need to review Drug Control Order to ensure availability of Drugs to poor people at cheaper rates.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (JALPAIGURI): Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the Government towards a serious a problem of soaring prices of medicines for years due to policies adopted by the Union Government. It may be recalled that in 1978, the Union Government issued initial order for controlling drug prices. The order was issued in consonance with the recommendations of Hathi Committee. The Hathi Committee's recommendations were meant to control prices of drugs and to serve the interests of drug manufacturing PSUs, but succumbing to the pressure of multinational companies in drug business, the Government brought down the number of drugs under Drug Control Order to 30 only in recent years from 166 in 1978. Thus, people of India, particularly those living below the poverty line, have been thrown at the mercy of MNCs. I request the Government to review the Drug Control Order to ensure availability of drug to poor people within their means.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rewati Raman Singh – Not present.