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Title: Need to ensure availability of medicines at economical rates.

MS. INGRID MCLEOD (NOMINATED): The medicines sold in the market are too costly for the Common men. According to the World Health Organization the poor people in India are the greatest sufferers. The organization estimates that about 64.5 million people in India cannot avail of commonly used drugs because of their prohibitive cost. They are forced to resort to low cost spurious drugs. The figure given by the Health National Sample Survey (55th round) is that expenditure on outpatient treatment is 66% of the total expenditure on medicines. This directly affects the economic stability of individual, family and society. The World Bank has identified health expense in India as a sharply rising source of debt for India. Medicine in common use for example albenadazole the retail price is 35 times the cost of production. Though the Supreme Court has directed that 350 essential medicines are to be made available at a lower rate nothing much has been done about the same. I request the honorable minister to consider the matter and take appropriate action so that the poor people of India get some relief.