

is the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, constituted an interministerial committee to recommend to put such drugs, which are extremely costly and not affordable, under Compulsory Licensing under the provisions of the Indian Patents Act, 1970. On the basis of the recommendations of this Committee made during its meeting on 20.12.2012, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recommended three cancer drugs, namely, Trastuzumab, Ixabepilone and Dasatinib to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion to put them under Compulsory Licensing under the provisions of the Indian Patents Act, 1970.

**Termination of cashless diagnostics and treatment
facilities by private hospitals**

3822. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several major private hospitals have decided to stop providing cashless diagnostics and treatment facilities to CGHS beneficiaries due to payment related issues;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in payment by CGHS; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to streamline the payment process of CGHS in order to avoid inconvenience to CGHS beneficiaries especially pensioners?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes. One hospital in Delhi viz., Max Devki Devi Heart and Vascular Institute had stopped providing credit facility and therefore, empanelment of the hospital has been suspended *w.e.f.* 13.2.2013 till further orders. Two hospitals viz., Max Super-specialty Hospital and Fortis Escort's Hospital, New Delhi opted out of CGHS empanelment on completion of their empanelment of two years. Frontier hospital, Chennai, B.P. Poddar Hospital and Research Centre, Kolkata and Sterling hospital, Ahmedabad have reported to have stopped extending credit facility to CGHS beneficiaries.

(b) There were delays in payment in CGHS in the last quarter of financial year due to piling up of cases on account of shortage of budget and expiry of agreement with the bill clearing agency *i.e.* UTI-ITSL, which processes the hospital bills and makes provisional payment to the private empanelled hospitals and diagnostic centres.

(c) Government has taken steps to renew agreement with UTI-ITSL and for the clearance of the pending bills on priority basis.

Regulatory mechanism for ayurvedic unani and homoeopathic medicines

3823. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism put in place/proposed by Government to regulate manufacturing, marketing and quality of Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic medicines in the country;

(b) whether Government has taken note of the rising prices of these medicines in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective measures taken or proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic medicines are regulated in the country under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules thereunder. For this purpose, the Licensing Authorities are appointed by the State Government to grant license for manufacturing of Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathic medicines and enforce the legal provisions for their sale or marketing and quality standards. In this regard, the Central Government is empowered to make or amend the law & rules. Besides, the Department of AYUSH in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has taken a number of regulatory measures for quality control of these medicines including enforcement of compliance to quality standards of drugs, compliance to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), notification of a schedule of poisonous substances, regulatory guidelines for licensing of Ayurvedic and Unani (A&U) medicines, use of excipients, preservatives etc., notifications regarding permissible limits of heavy metals, aflatoxins, pesticide residue and microbial load and shelf life of medicines. Also, Quality Standards of 600 single Ayurvedic drugs, 152 compound Ayurvedic formulations, 298 single Unani drugs, 100 compound Unani formulations, and 1045 Homoeopathic drugs have been developed and published in Pharmacopoeias.