

Shortage of human albumin serum

941. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards acute shortage of a life saving drug-Human Albumin Serum, which is given to liver problem related patients in the country, particularly in major cities like Mumbai, Pune, etc.;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and whether Government has investigated the reasons for the shortage of life saving drugs; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for ensuring easy availability of life saving drugs and at affordable cost in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA) : (a) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals monitors the availability of drugs and, where required, takes suitable remedial measures. NPPA has informed that shortage of human albumin injection including in Mumbai have been reported in the recent past.

(b) and (c) NPPA, keeping the above in view, issued an order vide Gazette Notification S.O. 2292(E) dated 09.09.2014 directing the *manufactures/importers* concerned of the drugs to submit a compliance report about having addressed the issue of shortage of certain essential medicines including albumin injection. NPPA has also convened a meeting with major companies, namely, M/s Reliance Life Science, M/s Baxter on 20.01.2015 and reviewed the position with regard to the supply of albumin injection in the country. As such, production of albumin injection is being monitored by NPPA to ensure its availability.

Complaints of sickle cell anaemia and jaundice in Chhattisgarh

†942. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of complaints of sickle cell anaemia in Chhattisgarh where adequate treatment is almost not available to the patients;

(b) whether effective treatment strategy is possible as the prevalence of jaundice and the possibility of hepatitis is rising in Chhattisgarh; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.