

[16 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. The CGHS gets pre-tested drugs from its suppliers which are given to the CGHS beneficiaries through the dispensaries.

(b) Medicines not available in the dispensaries are indented with the authorised local chemist of CGHS and supplied to the beneficiaries on the second or third day.

(c) In emergency and for urgently required medicines, authority slips are issued by the CGHS dispensaries to the beneficiaries for immediate supply of medicines through the CGHS authorised local chemist.

Amendment in Drugs and Cosmetics Act

557. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act on the basis of recommendations made by Mashelkar Committee;

(b) if so, the amendments proposed to be brought before Parliament by Government;

(c) in what manner Government propose to control the spurious drugs in the country through the proposed amendment; and

(d) how Government would ensure good clinical, laboratory and manufacturing practices in the country through the proposed amendment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2003 (Bill No. 93 of 2003) further to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 was introduced on December 22, 2003 in the 13th Session of Lok Sabha.

(b) and (c) The salient amendments proposed under the Bill are given below:—

1. It has been proposed in the Bill to enhance the punishments relating to spurious drugs upto a maximum of death penalty or imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 10 years but which may extend to imprisonment for life and shall also be liable to fine of one lakh rupees or upto three times the value of the goods seized, whichever is higher.
2. Penalties for subsequent offences to be enhanced upto 10 years and with fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees.
3. Offences relating to spurious drugs to be made non-bailable and cognizable.
4. Provision for setting up of special courts for speedy trial of offences relating to spurious or adulterated drugs.
5. To confer powers upon police officers not below the rank of sub-inspector or other designated officer to institute prosecutions under the said Act.
6. Provision for compounding of offences for minor offences under the Act.

The proposed amendments will make the law deterrent to the offenders involved in the manufacture or sale of spurious drugs. The involvement of enforcing agencies like Police will help in speedy investigations to look the culprits and in controlling anti-social elements involved in such activities.

(d) The said bill was introduced to control the menace of spurious drugs. Adequate provisions relating to the Good Manufacturing Practices and guidelines for clinical trials have been notified under the Drugs and Comestics Rules, 1945 made under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Non-indenting of medicines by CGHS dispensaries

558. SHRIMANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medicines prescribed by the specialists are now-a-days not indented by the C.G.H.S. dispensaries but are required to be