

(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 Cosmetics Rules, 1945 made under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Non-indenting of medicines by CGHS dispensaries

558. SHRI MANOJ 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

purchased by the beneficiaries themselves and then claims for reimbursement preferred by them;

(b) if so, the reasons for the change;

(c) whether Government are aware that the new procedure takes several months for the beneficiaries to recoup the money and causes them great inconvenience especially to senior citizens; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to mitigate the hardships resulting out of the new procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Adequate quantity of medicines is available in CGHS dispensaries. However, any drug prescribed by the Specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiaries from the Authorised Local Chemist on the basis of individual prescriptions.

In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorised local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

The reimbursement of bills of Senior Citizens (CGHS pensioner Cardholders) who have been permitted to purchase drug items from open market has been delegated by the Government to the respective Additional Directors/Joint Directors of CGHS for expediting the payment to the pensioners so that they are not inconvenienced.

Selection of private hospitals under CGHS

559. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the rules for selection of private hospitals under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) after allegations of corruption;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to ensure that hospitals selected are scattered in different areas to help senior citizens who can hardly move and go to nearby hospitals only?