

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Functional
22.	Telangana	12
23.	Tripura	7
24.	Uttar Pradesh	87
25.	Uttarakhand	11
26.	West Bengal	2
TOTAL		598

Short supply of Desferal drug

3409. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Desferal, the life saving drug used by Thalassemia patients, has been in short supply across the country for around a year posing a risk to the lives of around one lakh patients;

(b) whether according to some health activists, the shortage may be artificially created to jack-up prices and therefore needs immediate Government intervention in public interest; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to include the drug in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has received two complaints and Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has received one complaint regarding shortage of Desferal drug (Desferrioxamine 500 mg), which is used in the treatment of Thalassemia. The complaints so received were taken up with the concerned manufacturer *viz.* M/s Novartis India Limited (which as per the Pharmatrac data available with NPPA is the only manufacturer of Desferal). The company *vide* its letter dated 28.10.2016 informed NPPA that the product is available in adequate quantity in Bangalore as well as in other parts of the country.

(b) No such information has come in the notice of the Government.

(c) The formulation Desferrioxamine 500 mg is already included in both NLEM, 2011 and NLEM, 2015 and is under price regulation.