

Court of Delhi has quashed these notifications *vide* its judgment dated 01.12.2016 and the Government has filed appeal before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Further, in pursuance of the action taken note on the 59th PSC report, based on the examination by the Subject Expert Committee constituted by the Central Government, the Government *vide* Gazette Notifications S.O. Nos.1851(E) to 1855 (E) dated 08.06.2017 prohibited the manufacture for sale, sale and distribution for human use five FDCs with immediate effect in public interest.

(b) Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 were amended *vide* GSR No.327 (E) dated 03.04.2017, wherein, there is a requirement that "the applicant shall submit the result of bioequivalence study referred to in Schedule Y, along with the application for grant of a license of oral dosage form of drugs specified under category II and category IV of the biopharmaceutical classification system".

(c) Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), as part of its comprehensive e-Governance program, has launched an online portal "SUGAM". Modules for creation of databases of drug manufacturing facilities, approved drug formulations and retail and wholesale licenses issued in the country have been developed under the portal SUGAM. With regard to the database of the drug manufacturing facilities and approved drug formulations, the data is uploaded by the respective manufacturers and subsequently authenticated by the concerned State Drugs Controllers.

National Policy on Thalassemia

305. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends on bringing out a National Policy on Thalassemia in order to create awareness and to prevent its further spread, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government intends on making carrier testing compulsory for relatives of Thalassemia patients, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the steps being implemented currently by Government to further research on Thalassemia gene therapy in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): (a) and (b) Public Health is a State subject. However, the Ministry has prepared and issued comprehensive guideline for Haemoglobinopathies (Thalassemia, Sickle cell anemia and other variant anemia) for prevention and management of Haemoglobinopathies.

The Guidelines provide for screening of every pregnant woman during ANC, pre-marital Counseling at the college level and onetime screening for variant anemia for all children in class VIII. There is no proposal to make carrier testing compulsory for relatives of thalassemia patients as it should be voluntary and not cause stigmatisation of the family. Awareness programme on thalassemia are being conducted by several State Governments.

(c) As per ICMR, there is no research being carried out on thalassemia gene therapy by MoHFW.

Purchasing of medicines at high prices

†306. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medicines are being purchased at higher prices by the Centre than that of States;

(b) if so, whether Government will consider to purchase the medicines at the prices at which States are purchasing; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) No. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare procures medicines for centrally sponsored programmes like RNTCP, NVBDCP, Family Welfare and NACO. The drugs procured under centrally sponsored schemes are different from drugs procured by the State Governments.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) All procurements of drugs and medicines are done centrally through open and competitive bidding, which are widely published and participated. The technical specifications mandate adherence to GMP, WHO-GMP or WHO Pre-qualification quality standards, MoHFW does not procure any drugs listed in the Essential Drugs.

Rampant increase in sale of synthetic and adulterated milk products

307. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a rampant increase in the sale of synthetic and adulterated milk and dairy products in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.