

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS  
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LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1003

TO BE ANSWERED ON 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2016

**Shortage of Life Saving Drugs**

1003. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY KOTHA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking adequate steps to increase the supply of life saving drugs like D-Penicillamine etc., in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the measures being taken to make such drugs available in the market;
- (c) the incentives being offered to the companies that are ready to import these drugs; and
- (d) whether any company has come forward for import of such drugs and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)**

(a) & (b): National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has been sending all complaints on shortage of D-Penicillamine to the concerned manufacturers on regular basis with instructions to increase supply of the drug in the affected areas. A press release in this regard has also been uploaded on the website of the NPPA indicating the steps taken to ensure availability of Penicillamine drug.

(c): No additional incentive is presently being offered to the companies that are ready to import D-Penicillamine drug.

(d): One manufacturer of the drug D-Penicillamine (M/s Panacea Biotech Limited) informed that due to shortage of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) of D-Penicillamine from China, it had asked the Drugs Controller General (India), DCG(I) to permit one-time import of 500kg API (D-Penicillamine). The NPPA has also requested the DCG (I) to take urgent action in this matter.

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