

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 230  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2017**

**IGST ON LIFE SAVING MEDICINES**

**230. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:  
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:**

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

- (a) whether life-saving medicines imported for personal use would attract 5-12 per cent IGST, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the impact of the 12 per cent IGST on patients will lead to inaccessibility of such crucial medicines to majority of patients suffering from seven types of Lysosomal Storage Disorder (LSDs), rare cancers, etc., if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether it is a fact that LSDs treatments are not presently commercially available in India, if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Enzyme Replacement Therapy (ERT) drugs become costlier as a patient gets older and heavier as the dosage increases; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to make life saving medicines exempt from IGST for patients with rare genetic disorders?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): Medicaments in general attract 12% IGST. However, some specified medicaments including their salts and esters and diagnostic test kits have been prescribed 5% IGST rate. Post implementation of GST, representations have been received for reduction of IGST rates on lifesaving medicines from 12% to 5% or Nil. The requests were examined by Department of Revenue and based on the recommendation of the GST Council, IGST has been exempted on imports of

- I. Medicines/drugs/vaccines supplied free of cost by United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Red Cross or an International Organization subject to specified conditions.
- II. Lifesaving Medicines for personal use supplied free of cost by overseas supplier, subject to specified conditions.

(b): National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority under the Department of Pharmaceuticals has made an impact analysis of the GST/IGST implementation on the prices of medicines and noticed that there is no significant impact on the prices of medicines on implementation of the GST/IGST.

(c): As the number of persons suffering from individual rare diseases is small, they do not constitute a significant market for drug manufacturers to develop and bring to market drugs for them. At present very few pharmaceutical companies are manufacturing drugs for rare diseases globally and there are no domestic manufacturers in India.

However, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has approved certain drugs as enzyme replacement therapy for the treatment of certain types of Lysosomal Storage Disorders (LSD). Further, the following enzyme replacement therapy drugs and medicines for LSDs and other metabolic disorders are being donated to the patients by international drug manufacturers under their CSR/International charitable access programme:

Cerezyme, Velaglucerase, Cerdelga, Myozyme, Aldurazyme, Elaprase, Replagalvipriv, Orfadin (NTBC), Fabrazyme, Vimzim & Eleyso.

(d): Yes.

(e): As at (a) above