

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2038
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH JULY, 2021**

INQUIRY AGAINST DCGI

2038. SHRI SATYADEV PACHAURI:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up inquiry against Drugs Controller General of India for their failure to make available COVID medicines like Remdesivir and Amphotericin injection during COVID pandemic and curb artificial shortage and black marketing of these medicines; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereon; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (c): Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare regulates Quality Safety and Efficacy of drugs including vaccines as per the provisions of New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019 under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules thereunder.

For increasing production and supply, CDSCO has granted approval to 40 additional manufacturing sites of Remdesivir on fast track basis during April - June 2021 increasing the capacity of production from 38.8 lakhs/month in April 2021 to 122.49 lakhs/month in June 2021. Similarly, in case of Liposomal Amphotericin B injection manufacturing permissions were granted to 11 additional manufacturers, on fast track basis, increasing the production capacity and supplies of the drug. Further, fast track permissions were also granted for import of these drugs from various sources in accordance with Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules thereunder.

Department of Pharmaceuticals/CDSCO/National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) have jointly monitored the production and availability of drugs like Remdesivir and Amphotericin etc. in light of COVID-19 pandemic situation. As regards curbing black-marketing is concerned, CDSCO has issued to all State/UT Drugs Controllers several advisories to instruct their enforcement staff to keep strict vigil especially at sensitive places and to take stringent action against the offenders by conducting special drive of monitoring and investigation.

The aforesaid activity was also monitored on regular basis by CDSCO and as per information on enforcement activities obtained from various State/UT Drugs Controllers, various enforcement actions like Drug seizure, Arrests of accused persons/ registration of FIR etc. have been carried out by the State/UT Licensing Authorities.