

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.658
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH FEBRUARY, 2016**

ESSENTIAL MEDICINES

**658. SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE:
SHRI YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA:
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the shortage of essential medicines in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to prevent the black marketing of essential drugs and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to promote the production of low-cost generic versions of essential expensive medicines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether the Government has included/removed medicines from the list of essential medicines and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

- (a): Some reports regarding non-availability of human albumin injection have been received by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority. The lesser supply of plasma is the major reason for shortage of albumin. The manufacturers/importers are advised to take steps to rush stocks to areas where shortage of medicines is reported.
- (b): No complaint regarding black marketing of essential drugs has been received in the recent past. As per provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order, the manufacturers selling a scheduled / non-scheduled formulation at a price higher than the price permissible under the said Order are liable to deposit the overcharged amount along with interest thereon from the date of such overcharging.
- (c) & (d): The Government continues to encourage pharmaceutical companies to manufacture high quality and low priced generic drugs.
- (e): A total of 106 medicines have been added to, and 70 medicines have been deleted from National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2011 to prepare NLEM, 2015 which now contains a total of 376 medicines.