

Quality

The free entry of MNC's would also lead to another problem of quality. It is a well known fact that MNC's manufacture, promote and sell hazardous drugs, particularly in third world countries. Many of these drugs are either banned or are not in use singly or in combination in their country of origin. As it stands, the Indian drug market has substantial quantity of dangerous, hazardous spurious drugs. The problem of quality, will increase with the entry of MNC's.

A welcome feature of the NDP is that it provides for setting up of a National Drug Authority (NDA) to ensure quality control and rational use of medicines. The NDA to be set up by an Act of parliament would also prepare and publish national formulary and also the formularies relevant to various levels (like district hospitals, community centers, PHC etc.) for the guidance of consumers as well as doctors. One hopes that information, which is almost absent in the country would be soon available to consumers.

The establishment of more zonal and sub-zonal offices under the Central Drug Standards control Organizations as well as additional regional drug testing laboratories is a welcome move. If the quality of drugs is not up to the mark, it is also because of insufficient manpower, and other facilities. The NDP needs to be reviewed before implementation so that the welfare of the consumers will get priority and not the industry as it is now.
