

Govt regulates oxytocin injection

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Considering misuse of oxytocin injection by dairy owners to extract milk from milch animals and its harmful effects on consumers, the government has regulated the use of the drug.

In their recent notification, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has made it mandatory that oxytocin be sold only

to the veterinary hospitals only. Earlier, Maneka Gandhi, MP had raised an issue of oxytocin being misused by the dairy owners for extracting milk from milch animals and its harmful effects on the health of cows and buffaloes as well as on the consumers.

The DCGI had even sought an opinion of animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries, ministry of agriculture, in respect of

banning of oxytocin for animal use. However, it was opined that the ban on production and use of oxytocin for veterinary use is not recommended. The drug has therapeutic application in case of expulsion of fetus, retention of placenta. The drug oxytocin has however medical use for induction and augmentation of labour, to control post partum bleeding and uterine hypotonicity.

Further, to avoid its bulk sale, oxytocin injection, a provision was also made that the oxytocin injection shall be packed in single unit blister pack only. "In spite of the earlier provisions, the reports of manufacture and sale of the drug in clandestine way in large quantities and its misuse by the farmers or dairy owners have been received from time to time."

Regulatory / Govt.