

New DCGI expected to takeover in November

Singapore, Sep 23, 2011: With the three month extension given by the Madras High Court to Drugs Control General of India (DCGI) Dr Surinder Singh set to end soon, the Government of India is currently looking for a suitable replacement.

The court had permitted Dr Singh to continue as the DCGI only upto October 31, 2011. Therefore, the new DCGI is expected to take over the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) by November this year.

Meanwhile the Health Ministry, which controls the CDSCO, had recently issued an advertisement regarding the recruitment of new Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) within three months. According to the Ministry's advertisement, candidate for new DCGI will be selected from central government officials, state governments, semi-government organizations, public sector undertakings, recognized research institutes, autonomous and statutory entities.

Earlier, the govt had on June 8, 2011 had extended the appointment of Dr Surinder Singh as DCGI un til March 31, 2012. The DCGI's deputation tenure was to expire on June 21, this year.

However this had led to the controversy when a public interest litigation (WP 15607/2011) against the appointment of DCGI and the extension was filed by Mr T K Ramalingasamy, a former regulatory officer of the Tamil Nadu Drugs Control Department. The argument put forward by his advocate Ms P T Asha was the reference of a government order (GO) passed by the central government that the period of deputation of a government servant should not exceed beyond five years. Going by that it was said that Dr Singh has already completed five years on deputation.

Taking note of the PIL, court had stayed Dr Singh's continuation in office, which was later extended by three more months after the Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr Mohan Parasaran, who appeared on behalf of the Government assured the court that government would speed up the process of recruiting a new DCGI.