SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )
OF THE PHILIPPINES )
First Regular Session )

Senate
Office of the Secretary

'13 NOV -7 P4 :15

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 344

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED ADVISORY BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION WARNING THE PUBLIC AGAINST CONTAMINATED COUGH MEDICINE FROM INDIA

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 11, Section 14 provides that "State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them".

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin*, in its 29 October 2013 issue, reported that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), has warned local drug manufacturers and distributors against a contaminated cough medicine ingredient sourced from a drug laboratory in India;

WHEREAS, in an advisory, the FDA reportedly said that it has received a drug alert from the World Health Organization (WHO) involving the contaminated active pharmaceutical ingredient API Dextromethorpan, manufactured by KonduskarLaborities Private Ltd. in India;

WHEREAS, according to the report, API Dextromethorphan is contaminated with Levomethorphan, a toxic enantiomer which has caused several adverse drug reactions, including death;

WHEREAS, the WHO drug alert, published in January 2013, claimed that the ingredient has already caused 50 deaths in Pakistan, where most of the victims were allegedly drug addicts who have been abusing Dextromethorpan-containing syrups for many years without adverse reactions;

WHEREAS, a testing of the contaminated Dextromethorpan API in Pakistan showed it contained Levomethorpan between 9.5 to 22.6 percent;

WHEREAS, the FDA has advised drug manufacturers and distributors of Dextromethorpan products to recall and withdraw products containing the same that were sourced from Konduskar Laboratories; they should also test the products for the presence of Levomethorpan;

WHEREAS, according to the WHO advisory, the Indian Regulatory authorities suspended the manufacture, distribution, sale or use of Dextromethorphan by Konduskar Laboratories in January 2013 because of the incident;

WHEREAS, last month, the WHO said it was notified about drug intoxications involving 11 children in Paraguay, where the patients experienced flu-like symptoms who took in medical products by a local manufacturer;

WHEREAS, it was alleged that after taking the medicine, the children aged 2 to 9 had serious adverse reactions including altered consciousness, cyanosis, respiratory distress, and seizures;

WHEREAS, since then, the number of patients experiencing adverse reactions has reportedly risen to 44 confirmed cases, with ages ranging from 5 months to 48 years,

WHEREAS, the Paraguayan Ministry of Health reportedly issued a warning about the medicines; an investigation by Paraguayan authorities reportedly revealed that the source of the API Dextromethorpan was also Konduskar Laboratories in India;

WHEREAS, according to the report, the WHO requested extra vigilance from governments, and strongly advised that extreme caution should be exercised by importing countries and manufacturers in determining that it imported drugs are carefully tested for the presence of Dextromethorpan and Levomethorphan;

WHEREAS, existing laws must be strongly implemented with the help of the Department of Health and the local health departments to protect the public from consuming this dangerous drug;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the reported advisory by the world health organization warning the public against contaminated cough medicine from India.

Adopted,

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

\lfd