

Panel for separate medical devices law

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Amid a tussle between the medical device makers' lobby and the Centre, the Parliamentary standing panel on health and family welfare has recommended having a separate law for medical devices and a new department for medical devices under the health ministry.

According to sources, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has convened a meeting in Delhi on August 10 to discuss matters related to the draft New Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill, 2023.

The panel said in a report tabled in the House on August 4 that "instead of bringing a combined legislation for drugs, medical

devices and cosmetics, the ministry should formulate a separate legislation for medical devices and create a new department, the Department of Medical Devices".

Last week, medical device makers, patient interest groups, hospitals among others had written to the Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya seeking a separate Bill for medical devices

distinct from drugs, and also recall the draft New Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill, 2023 that is likely to be tabled in the monsoon session. The Association of the Indian Medical Devices Industry has requested the health minister to recall the new draft Bill, stating that the Bill, if passed, would push the sector into a "supply chain crisis".