

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4125
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD APRIL, 2018**

SCRUTINY OF OTC DRUGS

4125. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has sought regular scrutiny of drugs sold Over-The- Counter (OTC) to assess which of them were being abused for addiction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any system to track the sale of OTC drugs has been put in place/ proposed to be put in place and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the other steps taken by the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs to focus on OTC drugs to prevent abuse?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): No.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): No.

(d): The manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs in the country is regulated under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 thereunder through a system of licensing and inspection. Licenses for manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs are granted by the State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) appointed by respective State Governments. SLAs are empowered to monitor/track the sale of drugs including the drugs allowed to be sold without prescription and take action in case of non compliance.