

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2339
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH MARCH, 2021**

USE OF OPIOID-RELATED MEDICATION IN THE COUNTRY

2339 SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA:

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

- (a) whether any opioids being sold as medicines in India can be purchased without a prescription
- (b) whether Government has taken any action to prevent the sale or access to medical opioids to those with illegitimate prescriptions
- (c) if so, whether there is a monitoring mechanism to prevent such sales
- (d) whether the opioid tramadol is prescribed in India for medical use
- (e) whether the Ministry has conducted any research on the potential addiction to tramadolbased medication and
- (f) whether the Ministry has taken any proactive measures to regulate the export of tramadol?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c): Sale and distribution of drugs is regulated in terms of the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 made thereunder through a system of licensing and inspection. As per the provisions of the Act and Rules, various drugs including drugs of Opioid category are included in Schedule H and Schedule H1 of Drugs & Cosmetic Rules, 1945 and such drugs are required to be sold by retail only on the prescription of Registered Medical Practitioners (RMP). The State Licensing Authorities are empowered to take action on any violation of the conditions of sale license. In order to check illegal sale of drugs, the State Drug Controllers are sensitized from time to time in the matter.
- (d): Various formulations of Tramadol are approved in the country under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetic Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder for medicinal use.

(e): As per the report of National Survey conducted by National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, AIIMS, New Delhi funded by the Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment, the prevalence of overall opioid use in India was 2.06%. Further, pharmaceutical opioids (Tramadol comes under pharmaceuticals opioids) were the second most common type of opioids used in India (0.96%). Drugs Treatment Clinics have been set up in different parts of the country to help those who have problems due to use of these drugs.

(f): Under Drugs & Cosmetic Act 1940 and rules, made thereunder, provisions applicable for export of drugs are also applicable for export of Tramadol.