

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2205
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08TH AUGUST, 2023**

STATUS ON E-PHARMACY PLATFORMS

2205: SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has issued show-cause notices to e-pharmacy platforms over online sale of drugs by violating regulatory norms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and replies given by e-pharmacy platforms; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to have separate rules for e-pharmacies for selling drugs and medical devices

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) & (b): Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has issued show- cause notices to various firms engaged in online/internet sale of Drugs on 08th February 2023 & 09th February 2023. The firms have mostly responded by stating that they are only providing online platform for facilitating the sale of pharmaceutical products to customers and the Platform operate solely as intermediaries, connecting the users and the licensed Pharmacies.

(c): In order to regulate the online sale of medicines comprehensively, the Government had published draft Rules vide G.S.R. 817 (E) dated 28th August 2018 for amendment to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 for incorporating provisions relating to regulation of sale and distribution of drugs through e-pharmacy.

The draft Rules contain provisions for registration of e-pharmacy, periodic inspection of e-pharmacy, procedure for distribution or sale of drugs through e-pharmacy, prohibition of advertisement of drugs through e-pharmacy, complaint redressal mechanism, monitoring of e-pharmacy, etc.
