

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS**

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 178  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

**Sale of medicines without prescription**

**178 Shri Harbhajan Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Chemicals and Fertilizers** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of sale of medicines including cough syrups in India without prescription;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry has taken any step in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for laws and regulations regarding restrictions on the sale of over-the-counter cough syrup medications; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS  
(SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA)**

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(a) to (d): The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has informed that as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules, 1945, the drugs covered under various schedule like Schedule X Schedule G, Schedule H and Schedule H1 are required to be sold by retail on the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) only. Thus any cough syrup preparation containing any drug covered under such schedule are required to be sold by retail on the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner only.

The sale and distribution of drugs in the country is regulated by the State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) appointed by respective State Governments under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940 and its Rules. SLAs are legally empowered to take action in case of violation of provisions of the Act and Rules.

In order to ensure that prescription drugs are not sold without prescription of RMP, the State Drugs Controllers/other stakeholders have been sensitized from time to time in this regards. Various notices/Advisories/Letters have been issued to all State Drugs Controllers, other stakeholders for strict compliance of the requirements of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules made there under.

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