

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

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 185  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 04<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

**QR code for pharma companies**

**185 Shri S Niranjana Reddy:**

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

- (a) the number of pharmaceutical companies adopted QR codes under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the steps to ensure compliance from others;
- (b) whether Government plans to extend the QR code mandate to all medicine categories, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is planning public awareness campaigns to educate consumers on using QR codes to verify medicine authenticity; and
- (d) the status of NITI Aayog's blockchain-based pilot for 'track and trace' of drugs, and whether Government is adopting blockchain for this purpose?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS**

**(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

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(a) to (d): To require manufacturers to print or affix Bar Code or Quick Response (QR) Code on packaging labels of top 300 brands of drug formulation products, the Drugs Rules, 1945 were amended through notification dated 17.11.2022, which came into force from 1.8.2023, to provide for such printing or affixation in respect of the drug formulation products specified in Schedule H2 to the said rules. State Licensing Authorities are empowered under the said rules for effective implementation and monitoring, and in case of non-compliance to take action in accordance with the rules. Instructions have been issued to State Licensing Authorities to maintain a strong vigil to check compliance of the said requirement.

The proposal for affixing Bar Code or QR Code on other drug formulation products was deliberated in the 90<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board, which, after deliberations, agreed to the proposal to affix Bar Code or QR Code on all vaccine products. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has made the said requirements regarding QR Codes available to the general public by publishing the notification in this regard on its website (<https://cdsco.gov.in/opencms/opencms/en/Notifications/Gazette-Notifications>) and has also advised industry stakeholders for public awareness campaigns in this regard.

Details of the blockchain-based pilot are contained in NITI Aayog's draft discussion paper titled "Blockchain: The India Strategy" of January 2020, and the same is available on the website of NITI Aayog ([https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020-01/Blockchain\\_The\\_India\\_Strategy\\_Part\\_I.pdf](https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020-01/Blockchain_The_India_Strategy_Part_I.pdf)).

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