

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3456
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01ST APRIL, 2025**

UNREGULATED SALE OF HIGH-RISK MEDICINES THROUGH ONLINE APPS

3456. SHRI A. A. RAHIM:

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

- (a) whether Government has data on the rise in online sales of high-risk medicines without valid prescriptions and the details thereof, for the last five years, year-wise ;
- (b) whether online pharmacies bypass prescription requirements, leading to misuse and overuse of controlled medicines, and the action taken against such violations;
- (c) the number of cases of adverse effects or complications reported due to unauthorized online sales, year-wise;
- (d) the regulatory measures implemented to monitor and control the sale of high-risk medicines online; and
- (e) whether Government plans to introduce stricter regulations or penalties to curb unauthorized online medicine sales?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (e): Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has informed that there is no information regarding reported rise in online sales of high-risk prescription medicines. In order to regulate the online sale of medicines comprehensively, the Government had published draft Rules vide G.S.R. 817 (E) dated 28.08.2018 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.
