

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1855
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05TH AUGUST, 2025**

REGULATION OF ONLINE PHARMACIES

1855: SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the sale of spurious and substandard drugs through online pharmacies;
- (b) the measures being taken to regulate online pharmacies;
- (c) the steps taken to prevent dispensing prescription-only medications without valid prescriptions;
- (d) the actions to protect patient data; and
- (e) the plans for public awareness campaigns on safe online pharmacy practices?

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

(a) to (e): Manufacture/sales/distribution of Spurious/Adulterated/Not of Standard Quality drugs etc. is a punishable offence under the Act and concerned licensing authorities are empowered to take action in such cases.

The license for sale and distribution of drugs is granted by the State Licensing Authority appointed by the respective State Government. Licensee is required to comply with all the conditions of license. State Licensing Authorities are empowered to take action on violation of any conditions of such licenses.

In order to have comprehensive regulatory provisions, the draft rules have been published vide G.S.R 817(E) dated 28th August 2018 for inviting comments from public/stakeholders for amendment to the Drugs and Cosmetic 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 of sale of drugs through e-pharmacy, prohibition of

advertisement of drugs through e-pharmacy, complaint redressal mechanism, monitoring of e-pharmacy, protection of patient data etc.

Isolated complaints regarding sale of drugs by e-pharmacies without proper prescription etc. have been received. As and when such complaints are received, based on the merit, the matter is referred to the concerned State Licensing Authority for taking action as per the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945, as the State Licensing Authorities are empowered to take action in case of any violation of the conditions of sale licenses.
