

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1890
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH DECEMBER, 2025**

SALE OF OVER-THE-COUNTER COUGH SYRUP

1890. MS. SUSHMITA DEV:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the sale of medicines including cough syrups in the country 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 syrups; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d): As per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945, the drugs covered under various Schedule like Schedule X, Schedule H and Schedule H1 are required to be sold by retail on the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) only. Accordingly, any cough syrup preparation containing a drug classified under these schedules are required to be sold by retail on the prescription of a RMP only.

Sale and distribution of drugs in the country is regulated under the provisions of the said Act and Rules by the State Governments through a system of licensing and inspection. State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) are legally empowered to take action against violation of provisions of the said Act and Rules.

In order to ensure that prescription drugs are not sold without prescription of a RMP, the State Drugs Controllers and other stakeholders have been sensitized from time to time. Various notices/advisories/letters have been issued to all State Drugs Controllers and other stakeholders for strict compliance of the requirements of the said Act and Rules.
