

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 261
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JULY, 2026**

PROCUREMENT OF MEDICINES AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

261. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government has prescribed Standard Operating Procedures for procurement of medicines, consumables and medical equipment by the Central Procurement Agency and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has conducted an independent audit of procurement of medicines, surgical consumables and medical equipment by the Central Procurement Agency and other Government procurement agencies to detect overpricing, cartelisation or tender manipulation, if so, the details thereof including the major findings and action taken?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAP RAO JADHAV)**

(a) There is a well-defined framework for procurement of medicines, consumables and medical equipment by Central Procurement Agencies, comprising the provisions of General Financial Rules, (GFR), 2017 and Manual of Procurement of Goods issued by the Department of Expenditure and also the instructions on the preferential purchase issued by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises. The procurements are done through online bidding using platforms like Government e-Marketplace and Central Public Procurement Portal.

(b) All the procurements are subject to statutory audit by Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) and internal audit by Controller General of Accounts (CGA). Their observations/ findings are appropriately replied to on case to case basis. The procurements above the prescribed threshold value are also covered under the Standard Operating Procedures for implementation of Integrity Pact laid down by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). The procedures entail review of cases by Independent External Monitors (IEM) appointed by CVC and hearing of complaints. All procuring entities have this mechanism also in place.
