

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4973
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH DECEMBER, 2016**

SALE OF MEDICINES THROUGH ONLINE PHARMACIES

**4973. SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
KUNWAR BHARATENDRA:
SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:**

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

- (a) whether a high level Committee constituted by the Government to regulate the sale of medicines through online pharmacies has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the salient recommendations of the said Report;
- (c) whether the Committee has taken into consideration the views of all stakeholders before giving its recommendations and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the percentage of share of medicines sold online in the country; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check self medication?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)**

- (a): Yes. The Sub-Committee constituted by the Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) to examine the issue relating to online sale of drugs has submitted its report.
- (b): The Sub-committee has inter-alia recommended:-
 - Creation of a National Portal to act as the nodal platform for transacting and monitoring online sale of drugs.
 - Necessity of evolving a mechanism to register e-pharmacies.
 - Geographical restrictions for operation of e-pharmacies.
 - Mechanism for verification of authenticity through a link to the National Portal.
 - Existing licensees carrying out retail sale of drugs would also be able to register on the National Portal for carrying out online sale of drugs.
 - Requirement of registration with CDSCO under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.
 - certain categories of drugs viz. the Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, tranquilizers, habit forming drugs and Schedule X drugs that are prone to being abused or misused are to be excluded from sale through e-pharmacies.

(c): The Sub-committee had sought suggestions/comments from stakeholders and also heard the representatives of industry, associations, NGOs, etc. before preparing the report.

(d): Data in this regard is not maintained centrally.

(e): Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 thereunder, the drugs included in Schedule H, H1 and X are required to be sold by retail on, and in accordance with, the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) only and it is dangerous to take drugs included in Schedule G except under medical supervision. In case of non-compliance with the provisions, the State Licensing Authorities are empowered to take action under the said Act and Rules.