

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2081
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH JULY, 2017**

CELLULOSE CAPSULES

2081. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:

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

- (a) whether the types of cellulose capsules that are presently available in the market are different from animal based gelatin capsules, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether switching over to vegetarian cellulose capsules will hit the Rs. 5000 crores gelatin capsule industry;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government to address the problem?

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

(a): Yes. Presently, cellulose capsules are prepared from Hydroxy Propyl Methyl Cellulose (HPMC), which is synthetic in origin, whereas Gelatin Capsules are prepared from gelatin which is a purified protein obtained by partial hydrolysis of animal collagen.

(b) to (d): The Government has not received any such report that switching over to vegetarian cellulose capsules will hit the Rs. 5000 crore gelatin capsules industry. However, some industry associations have raised certain issues including technical issues and economic viability for replacing gelatin capsules with cellulose capsules. The government has, after examination of all pertinent issues relating to use of gelatin capsules and its replacement by cellulose based capsules, already constituted a Committee to consider all pertinent issues and make recommendations to the Government.

.....