

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1232
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND DECEMBER, 2017**

DRUG RESISTANCE TO H1N1 MEDICINES

1232. ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the easy access to H1N1 medicines has raised fears of drug resistance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that the Government has advised doctors to prescribe the drugs based on strong symptoms only and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether such misuse will lead to a situation of anti viral medicines turning ineffective and if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken in this regard?

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

(a) & (b): No, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recently (Feb 2017) placed Oseltamivir (the drug used to treat H1N1 influenza) under **schedule H-1** of the drug and cosmetics act from the earlier **schedule X** after due recommendation by the Drug and Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) in order to ensure wider availability and accessibility. However even under **Schedule H-1**, the drug can only be sold under valid prescription of a qualified doctor only. So the sale is still regulated and there should not be any threat of drug resistance.

(c): Yes, in order to rationalize and optimize the use of laboratory facilities, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had issued guidelines for the Categorisation of cases and only cases fitting into **Category C** (Cases with Severe illness) needed to be subjected to laboratory testing and rest of the cases could be treated without lab confirmation based on strong clinical epidemiological suspicion.

(d): No, as per the current Ministry of Health and Family Welfare guidelines there should not be any misuse of the anti H1N1 influenza medications provided the guidelines are strictly followed by the clinicians across the country.

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