

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 67
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15TH DECEMBER, 2017**

PRESCRIBING GENERIC DRUGS

67. SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM:

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

- (a) whether it is true that the Government has proposed/approved a draft notification making it mandatory for pharma companies to carry generic name of drugs larger than the brand name on packs, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to put in place a legal framework to ensure doctors prescribe low cost generic medicine to patients and seek public comments on the draft and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has also issued orders to the Medical Council of India, State Governments and all Central Government hospitals asking them to ensure that doctors write prescriptions with generic names of medicines in legible handwriting; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has published a draft notification for public comments vide GSR 302 (E) dated 30.03.2017 for amendment of Rule 96 of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 to provide that the proper name of the drugs shall be printed in a conspicuous manner which shall be in the same font but at least two font size larger than the brand name or the trade name, if any.

(b) to (d): Medical Council of India (MCI) has notified an amendment in Clause 1.5 of Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 vide notification dated 21.09.2016, which stipulates that “Every physician should prescribe drugs with generic names legibly and preferably in capital letters and he/she shall ensure that there is a rational prescription and use of drugs”. MCI has further issued a circular on 21.04.2017 vide which all the Registered Medical Practitioners under the Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act have been directed to comply with the aforesaid provisions.

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