

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2842  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018**

**USE OF ANTIBIOTICS**

**2842. SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO:**

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

- (a) the details of policy regarding use of antibiotics in the country;
- (b) whether the Government is taking any steps to tackle the emerging problem of Anti-Biotic Resistance (ABR) in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government is taking any steps to curb the unregulated over-the-counter sales of antibiotics in pharmacy stores across the nation and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Ministry hosts any dedicated events to increase awareness among medical practitioners to prescribe antibiotics carefully and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): Government of India has given due cognizance to the problem of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and to tackle this issue, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has initiated various activities towards AMR containment as under:-

- i. National Programme on Containment of AMR was initiated during the 12<sup>th</sup> Five year plan and is being coordinated by National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). Under the programme, AMR surveillance is being conducted by NCDC through a network of 20 state medical college laboratories in 18 States and the network is being expanded across the country in a phased manner.
- ii. Indian Council of Medical research (ICMR) is coordinating another AMR surveillance network of 20 laboratories located in tertiary care centres (both public and private) in the country.
- iii. Strengthening Infection Prevention and Control: Surveillance of Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs) is being conducted under the AIIMS-ICMR-NCDC network.
- iv. Interim National Infection Prevention control (IPC) guidelines have been disseminated for use by Health care facilities and are also uploaded on the NCDC website.
- v. Surveillance for Antibiotic consumption: NCDC has initiated antibiotic consumption studies in health care facilities in the country in 20 medical colleges.
- vi. Antimicrobial stewardship (AMSP) activities: In order to promote rational use of antibiotics among the health care providers, a series of sensitization and training workshops have been organized in different Health care facilities in the country for the benefit of the practicing clinicians. Standard treatment guidelines developed by NCDC for rational use of antibiotics have been made available to clinicians across the country. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recently initiated a project on strengthening AMSP in 30 sites.

(d): Sale and distribution of Drugs are regulated under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules, 1945 made thereunder in the country through licensing and inspection. License for sale and distribution of drugs are granted by State Licensing Authorities appointed by respective State Governments. State Licensing Authorities are empowered to take action against any violations of the conditions of license. The State Drugs Controllers have been sensitized from time to time for taking policy measures including stringent regulatory action over the counter sale of antibiotics.

Since March 2014, a separate Schedule H-1 has been incorporated in Drug and Cosmetic Rules to regulate the sale of antimicrobials in the country. About 24 antimicrobials belonging to third/fourth generation cephalosporins and carbapenems are covered in the schedule. These antimicrobials cannot be sold without a proper medical prescription and their drug packaging requires the specific labelling along with red border.

Food safety and Standards authority of India (FSSAI) has also notified the prescribed tolerance limits of antibiotics in different kinds of food of animal origin.

(e): National Action Plan for Containment of AMR (NAP-AMR) was developed by National Centre for Disease control (NCDC) involving stakeholders from various ministries/sectors and was launched by Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare dated 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Simultaneously, a Delhi Declaration on AMR – an inter-ministerial consensus, was also signed by the Ministers of the concerned ministries pledging their whole hearted support in AMR containment. Since health is a state subject, states are being supported to develop state action plans along the lines of NAP-AMR.

Further, to create awareness among the public about AMR, several IEC activities have been coordinated by NCDC along with other partners to raise awareness about AMR among different stakeholders by way of organizing Public lectures, participating in Live programmes on Lok Sabha TV and Doordarshan, organizing AMR programmes in schools and colleges etc.