

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS**

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 31
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11th December, 2018

Sale of Medicines Online

31. DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering any proposal for establishing separate guidelines for the sale of medicines online in order to outline a legal framework for e-pharmacy businesses and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 to differentiate between online and offline pharmacies and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the problem of validity of prescriptions in e-pharmacy businesses; and
- (d) the difficulties faced by start-ups in the ease of doing e-pharmacy business and the steps taken by the Government to address these problems?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS;
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)**

(a) to (d): The Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 has provisions to sell, stock, exhibit or offer for sale or distribution of drugs. Further the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has published draft rules to amend Drugs and Cosmetics Rules vide. GSR 817(E) dated 28.08.2018 regarding regulation of distribution or sale, stock, exhibit or offer for sale of drugs through e-pharmacy. As per these draft Rules, the e-pharmacy shall mention the various details on its e-pharmacy portal, one of which includes name of the registered pharmacist, with the Registration No. and name of Pharmacy Council where the pharmacist has been registered, who validates the prescription prior to forward it to dispense the drugs.

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