

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1064
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08TH FEBRUARY, 2019**

MISUSE OF ANTIBIOTICS

**1064. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:
DR. P. VENUGOPAL:**

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

- (a) whether the doctors have expressed their views at a conference during antibiotics awareness week that excessive use of antibiotics boosts various diseases and causes damage to human organs and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also true that use of the drugs has more than doubled between 2000 and 2015 and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that misuse and overuse of antibiotics have made once easily treatable bacteria infections harder and often impossible to cure because bacteria evolve rapidly to evade antibiotics, leading to drug resistance and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is also true that this phenomenon is on the rise not only because of inappropriate use of antibiotics in human medicine but also due to practices in the agricultural industry and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether it is true that no new antibiotic drug has been launched after 1975 and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether the Government is likely to formulate any effective guidelines to check the misuse of antibiotics and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) & (b): Excessive use of antibiotics as well as using them without prescription of treating doctors are likely to cause antibiotic resistance and damage to human organs. As per the information with the Drug Controller General of India, antibiotics consumption has increased from 3.2 to 6.5 billion Defined Daily Doses (DDDs) (103%) in India between 2000 and 2015.

(c) & (d): As per available scientific information, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs naturally over time, usually through genetic changes. The misuse and overuse of antimicrobials can accelerate the process of AMR, making the once easily treatable bacterial infections harder and often impossible to cure. Inappropriate use of antibiotics in human, animal and agricultural sector are also known to contribute to the rapid emergence of AMR.

(e): As per the Drug Controller General (India), many antibiotics have been approved for manufacturing and marketing in the country after 1975.

(f): Government has taken the following actions to check the misuse of antibiotics:

- I. Antibiotics have been included in Schedule H and H1 of the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules and are required to be sold by retail only under the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner.
- II. Government has issued National Treatment guidelines for judicious use of antibiotics. The Guidelines on Infection Prevention and Control aims at prevention and control of healthcare associated infections to reduce the use of antibiotics in healthcare settings.
- III. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued a Notification prohibiting the use of 19 antibiotics and veterinary drugs at any stage of processing of meat, meat products, poultry and eggs, sea food or any variety of fish and fishery products and has specified tolerance limits for 103 antibiotics and veterinary drugs for various animal tissues and milk.
- IV. The Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, amended in 2012, provides that the container of a medicine for treatment of food producing animals shall be labelled with the withdrawal period of the drug for the species on which it is intended to be used.
- V. The Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) has recommended prohibition of Colistin and its formulations for use in food producing animals, poultry and aqua farming as well as animal feed supplements.