

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1092
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08TH FEBRUARY, 2019**

ONLINE SALE OF MEDICINES

1092. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines for online sale of medicines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which it provides security to the consumers;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any draft to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules for sale, storage and marketing of medicines through e-pharmacy and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any complaints regarding delivery of spurious medicines by online e-pharmacy companies have been received during the last three years; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof State/UT wise along with the action taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Government has published draft rules vide G.S.R. 817 (E) dated 28th Aug 2018 for inviting comments from public/stakeholders for amendment to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 for incorporating provisions relating to regulation of sale and distribution of drugs through e-pharmacy.

The draft rules contain provisions for registration of e-pharmacy, periodic inspection of e-pharmacy, procedure for distribution or sale of drugs through e-pharmacy, prohibition of advertisement of drugs through e-pharmacy, complaint redressal mechanism, monitoring of e-pharmacy, etc.

(d) & (e): The manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs in the country is regulated under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 thereunder through a system of licensing and inspection. Licenses for manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs are granted by the State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) appointed by respective State Governments. SLAs are legally empowered to take stringent action against violation of provisions of the Act and Rules.

Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has not received any specific complaints regarding delivery of spurious medicines by online pharmacy during the last three years.

However, isolated complaints regarding selling of suspected quality of medicines have been received. As and when such complaints are received, the matter is referred to State Licensing Authorities for taking action as per the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945.