

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1112
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH JUNE, 2019**

GUIDELINES FOR ON-LINE SALE OF MEDICINES

1112. DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI:

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

- (a) whether any proposal has been considered for establishing separate guidelines for the sale of medicines online in order to outline a legal framework for e-pharmacy business and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government plans to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 to differentiate between online and offline pharmacies and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps 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 330 and steps taken by the Government to address these problems?

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

(a) to (d): The Government has published draft rules vide GSR 817(E) dated 28.08.2018 to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 by incorporating provisions to regulate sale of medicines online in addition to the existing provisions to regulate sale of drugs.

The draft rules contain various definitions including definition of e-pharmacy, e-pharmacy portal, prescription and sale by way of e-pharmacy which will provide a legal framework for conducting e-pharmacy business as well as provisions for registration of e-pharmacy, monitoring of e-pharmacy, their inspection, etc. to monitor such sale of drugs.

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