

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4533
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH JULY, 2019**

ONLINE AND OFFLINE SALE OF DRUGS

4533. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:

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

- (a) the details of drugs being sold online and offline during each of the last three years and the current year, State/ UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the growth of sale of online drugs in the country during the said period, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is mulling to formalize online sale of drugs in the country; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for delay and the time by which his Ministry would like to formalize online sale of drugs?

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

(a) & (b): Sale of drugs in the country is regulated under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 thereunder by the State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) through a system of licensing and inspection. The data with regard to sale of drugs is not maintained centrally.

(c) & (d): The Government had published draft rules vide G.S.R. 817 (E) dated 28th August, 2018 inviting comments from public/stakeholders for regulation of sale and distribution of drugs through e-pharmacy.

Subsequent to the publication of draft rules, a large number of comments were received from various stakeholders. These have been duly examined and a number of meetings with stakeholders have also been held. After comprehensive stakeholder consultation, the draft of the notification has been got vetted from Ministry of Law & Justice before approval of the competent authority for its publication.