

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1490
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH FEBRUARY, 2023**

CHECK ON MEDICAL STORES/CHEMISTS SHOPS

**1490: SHRI RANJEETSINGH HINDURAO NAIK NIMBALKAR:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of Medical stores/chemists shops in the country neither fulfil the requirements of drug control norms nor operate as per criteria for selling medicines i.e. non-availability of certified pharmacists, incomplete record of medicines, lack of cold storage facilities etc.;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not putting a check on such practices and adopting a lackadaisical approach in the matter; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (c): Medical store/chemist store comes under the purview of respective State Drug Control Department and State Pharmacy Council. Sales and distribution of drugs in the country are regulated under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and its Rules by the State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) appointed by the respective State Governments. The SLAs are legally empowered to take stringent action in case of any non-compliance.

However, as per available information, as on date approximately 16 lakh registered pharmacists are available in the country and approximately 03 lakh pharmacists are passing out per annum from pharmacy institutions all across the country, thus meeting the healthcare requirements of the country.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued Notices/Advisories/Letters to States/UTs Drugs Controller and other stake holders for strict compliance of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and its Rules.

The Central Government has provided Rs. 651.97 crores for Strengthening the Drug Regulatory System including upgradation of existing State Laboratories, setting up of new Drug Testing Laboratories and upgradation of existing State Drug Control Offices as part of “Strengthening of State Drug Regulatory System”.
