

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1514
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH FEBRUARY, 2023**

OVERUSE OF ANTIBIOTIC MEDICINES

1514: SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that antibiotics are readily available over the counter in the country without the need for a prescription and its overuse may create deadly resistant strains in the body;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the ICMR has advised doctors to avoid prescribing antibiotics for viral bronchitis and low-grade fevers to prevent the transmission of antimicrobial resistance due to overuse; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) & (b): The Government is aware of the challenges posed by antimicrobial resistance, which is created by the overuse of antibiotics. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has taken following initiatives to promote judicious use of antimicrobials:

- 1) Antibiotics are included in Schedule H and H1 of the Drugs Rules, 1945. These drugs have specific caution labeling requirements and are sold only under the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner. The supply of a drug specified in Schedule H1 are recorded in a separate register at the time of the supply and such records are maintained for three years and are open for inspection. Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has placed 24 hi-end antimicrobials under schedule H1 by issuing notification.
- 2) MoHFW launched Red Line awareness campaign on Antimicrobials Resistance, urging people not to use medicines marked with a red vertical line, including antibiotics, without a doctor's prescription.

(c) & (d): Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released treatment guidelines for antimicrobial use in common syndromes which contain guidelines for use of antibiotics for viral bronchitis and low-grade fever.
