

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.408
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03RD FEBRUARY, 2023**

e-PHARMACY APPS

408: SHRIMATI SUNITA DUGGAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the trade of prescription drugs on numerous online Pharmacy (e-pharmacy) apps and monitors the same;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any S.O.P./guidelines to these e-pharmacy apps for selling prescription drugs online and verifying the prescriptions submitted by app users;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check improper sale of prescription drugs on such e-pharmacy apps?

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

(a) to (e): In order to regulate the online sale of medicines comprehensively, the Government of India has published draft rules 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.
