

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4894
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.03.2023**

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

4894. DR. M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the inappropriate diagnosis, prescription, and use of unregulated antibiotics are major factors in the spread of antibiotic resistance;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard, and the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to have an effective regulatory system to ensure the appropriate use of antibiotics in both public and private healthcare systems;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to introduce more advanced diagnostic tools and protocols in the public healthcare system to detect illness and infection trends and, in doing so, treat infections accurately with the correct antimicrobials; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

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

(a) to (d):

Union Health Ministry has taken several initiatives to spread awareness about appropriate use of antibiotics and control AMR which include:

- Red line campaign was launched to curb over the counter sale of antibiotics.
- Antibiotics Stewardship Program(AMSP) has been implemented in 20 tertiary care hospitals to control misuse and overuse of antibiotics in hospitals wards and ICUs.
- National Action Plan on AMR has been launched in 2017 with an objective of intersectoral coordination, improve awareness, strengthening knowledge and evidence through surveillance of AMR, reduce incidence of infection through

effective infection prevention and control and promote optimal usage of antibiotics.

- Issued guideline for Antimicrobial use in common syndrome in 2019.
- Developed guidelines on Infection Prevention and Control in 2020.
- Guidelines for management of carbapenem resistant have been developed in 2022.

With an aim to regulate sale of antibiotics, it has been included in Schedule H and H1 of the Drugs Rules, 1945 and are required to be sold by retail only under the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner. State Licensing Authorities are empowered to take action against any violation. The State Drugs Controllers/other stake holders have been sensitized in this regards. Various Notices/Advisories /Letters have been issued to all State Drugs Controllers, other stakeholders for strict compliance of the requirements of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules.

To improve the diagnostic tools in the public healthcare system and enable evidence-based treatments, ICMR has a taskforce project on rapid diagnostics for antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The aim of the project is to bridge the translational gap between the innovators and healthcare system requirements for point of care diagnostics for AMR.
