

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.364
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21st JULY, 2023**

Prevalence of Polypharmacy

364. SHRI P.C. MOHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the prevalence of polypharmacy among the elderly population;
- (b) if so, the details and statistics regarding the same;
- (c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to create awareness among the healthcare professionals regarding the risks and challenges associated with polypharmacy in the elderly and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Ministry has conducted/proposed to conduct any studies/research to assess the impact of polypharmacy on the health and well-being of the elderly population and if so, the details thereof in this regard; and
- (e) whether the Government has plans to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions implemented to reduce polypharmacy in the elderly population and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a) to (e)

Polypharmacy is prevalent in India. A systematic review published in Frontiers in pharmacology in 2021 found that 49% of older Indian adults (aged 60 years and above) were experiencing polypharmacy. Polypharmacy refers to the concomitant use of 5 or more medications.

The training modules for Medical Officers and CHO for Elderly Care, developed by National Health System Resource Centre under this Ministry, are comprised of the assessment tool on

polypharmacy by the elderly patients which include the awareness on adverse effects associated with polypharmacy.

Indian Council of Medical Research has mandate to conduct Research/Study to assess the impact of Polypharmacy etc. in Geriatric Population.
