

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4182
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH DECEMBER, 2019**

ONLINE SELLING OF MEDICINES WITHOUT QUALIFICATION

**4182. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:
MS. PRATIMA BHOUMIK:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that lots of online portals are selling medicines without any qualification and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that due to the sale of medicines online, registered chemists are facing financial troubles and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to take any action against the online portals who are selling medicines online without any qualification and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has taken note of heavy discount provided by companies selling medicines online to consumers;
- (e) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up any regulatory Committee to check the quality of medicine sold through e-pharmacists and to monitor online selling of medicines; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (f): Sale of drugs in the country is regulated under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 thereunder by the State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) through a system of licensing and inspection. SLAs are legally empowered to take stringent action against violation of provisions of the Act and Rules.

It has been noted that there are certain online portals selling medicines. Some concerns have been raised by certain stakeholders against online sale of medicines.

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In order to regulate the online sale of medicines comprehensively, the Government has published draft rules vide G.S.R. 817 (E) dated 28th August 2018 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.

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