

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.699
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD JULY, 2021**

PRESCRIBING DRUGS WITH GENERIC NAMES

**699. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:
SHRI RAVI KISHAN:
SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK:
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:**

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

- (a) whether the Medical Council of India has advised doctors to prescribe drugs with generic name only and if so, the details thereof along with the status of compliance thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry/study to ascertain the implementation of the advisory by the doctors;
- (c) if so, the details and outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the number of complaints received by the Government/MCI for not prescribing drugs with generic name by the Doctors across the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (e) the action taken/being taken by the Government on such complaints so far, State/UT-wise; and
- (f) the other steps taken/being taken to ensure doctors prescription of only generic medicines by doctors and curb promotion advertisement of branded drugs by doctors in connivance with the drug companies?

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

(a) to (f): Clause 1.5 of the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 prescribes that every physician should prescribe drugs with generic names legibly and preferably in capital letters and he/she shall ensure that there is a rational prescription and use of drug. Further, the erstwhile Medical Council of India (MCI) had issued Circulars dated 2.11.2012, 18.01.2013 and 21.04.2017 vide which all the Registered Medical Practitioners were directed to comply with the aforesaid provisions.

The National Medical Commission Act, 2019 empowers Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB) of the Commission or the appropriate State Medical Councils to take disciplinary action against a doctor for violation of the provision of the aforesaid Regulations. As and when complaints are received against the violation of code of ethics for doctors, such complaints are referred by EMRB (previously by erstwhile MCI) to the concerned State Medical Councils where the doctors/medical practitioners are registered. The Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB) is the Appellate Authority in the matter. The details of number of complaints received by the Government/MCI for not prescribing drugs with generic name by the Doctors across the country is not maintained centrally. States have been advised to ensure prescription of generic drugs and conduct regular prescription audits in public health facilities.

Practice of prescription audit is one of the prerequisites for getting certified under the National Quality Assurance Standards(NQAS). Further, under National Health Mission (NHM), support is provided for provision of essential generic drugs free of cost in public health facilities.