

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2120
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01ST AUGUST, 2025**

**ADOPTION OF QR CODES FOR ALL MEDICINES BY PHARMACEUTICAL
COMPANIES**

2120. SMT. RACHNA BANERJEE:

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

- (a) the number of pharmaceutical companies that have adopted QR codes under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 alongwith the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure compliance from others;
- (b) whether the Government plans to extend the mandatory QR code to all categories of medicine in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government is planning public awareness campaigns to educate consumers on using QR codes to verify medicine authenticity and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) : On 17.11.2022, the Drugs Rules, 1945 were amended vide G.S.R. 823(E) which has come into force from 1st of August, 2023 providing that the manufacturers of top 300 brands of drug formulation products, as specified in Schedule H2, shall print or affix Bar Code or Quick Response Code on its primary packaging label or, in case of inadequate space in primary package label, on the secondary package label that store data or information legible with software application to facilitate authentication.

State Licencing Authorities (SLAs) are empowered under the said Drugs Rules for its effective implementation and monitoring and in case of non-compliance, SLAs can take action as per the rules. SLAs have also been requested to keep a strong vigil to check the compliance of the said requirement.

(b): The proposal for affixing bar code or quick response code on other drug formulation products was deliberated in the 90th Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) meeting held on 25.01.2024. The Board has agreed to the proposal to extend the provision of

QR code to all vaccine products and to all antimicrobials, narcotic & psychotropic substances in a phase wise manner.

(c): The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has made the said requirements regarding QR Codes available to the general public by publishing the notification in this regard on its website (<https://cdsco.gov.in/opencms/opencms/en/Notifications/Gazette-Notifications>) and has also advised industry stakeholders for public awareness campaigns in this regard.

Further, the guidance for identification and verification of spurious drugs have also been provided on the website of CDSCO describing the process flow for verifying the authenticity of the drugs by reading the bar code or quick response code.
