

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4641  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

**ILLEGAL SALE AND DISPOSAL OF EXPIRED MEDICINES**

**4641. SHRI JAI PRAKASH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take strict action to curb the illegal and dangerous practice of reselling expired medicines, which involves altering expiry dates and re - entering them into the supply chain after such illegal practice was brought to the fore, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has issued new guidelines on the safe disposal of expired/unused drugs to ensure that they are not diverted back into the market, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has launched "Drug Take-Bank" programmes, where consumers can drop off expired medicine at designated locations and if so, the response of consumers in this regard?

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

(a): The manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs in the country is regulated under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 thereunder through a system of licensing and inspection. Licenses for manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs are granted by the State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) appointed by respective State Governments.

Licensee is required to comply with all the conditions of license. One of the conditions of license states that no drug shall be sold or stocked by the licensee after the date of expiration of potency recorded on its container, label or wrapper, or in violation of any statement or direction recorded on such container, label or wrapper.

SLAs are legally empowered and take stringent actions against violation of provisions of the Act and Rules including the instances of reselling the expired medicines.

(b) & (c): Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) with the approval of Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) has issued a guidance document on disposal of expired/ unused drugs, available on website of CDSCO ([www.cdsc.gov.in](http://www.cdsc.gov.in)).

The guidance provides information regarding various methods for disposal of expired/ unused medicines, procedure to be followed for disposal of the expired /unused medicines by Retailers, Wholesalers, Manufactures, Government/ Private Hospitals, Government Agencies, etc. and disposal of expired medicine/unused medicine by general public.

Further, CDSCO vide letter dated 26.05.2025 has also requested all the States/ UT Drugs Controllers to encourage the concerned stakeholders in their States/ UTs to adopt these guidelines for safe disposal of expired/ unused drugs.

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