

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1491  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2016**

**ONLINE SALE OF MEDICINES**

**1491. SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE:  
SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:  
SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:  
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIS1:**

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

- (a) whether the existing regulatory agencies are tracking and monitoring online sale of medicines, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has constituted a Committee to examine the sale of online drugs and its impact on public health, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report, if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted;
- (d) whether the Government has put a temporary ban on online sale of medicines till the report of the Committee is received, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has issued any guideline to the States to monitor the quality of online medicine; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a): In accordance with the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder, the sale of drugs in the country is regulated by State Licensing Authorities. As per the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, drugs specified in Schedule H, H1 or Schedule X cannot be sold except on and in accordance with the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner. The supply of prescription drugs can be effected only by or under the personal supervision of a registered pharmacist from a licensed premises. As such, the State Licensing Authorities are required to monitor the sale of medicines and take regulatory action in case of any contravention in terms of the Rules.

Contd.....

(b) & (c): The Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC), in its 48<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2015, constituted a sub-committee to examine the issue of sale of drugs on internet, after taking into account the risks and concerns related to such sales. The report of the sub-committee has not been finalised.

(d) to (f): The Drug Controller General (India) has sent a letter on 30.12.2015 to all State/UT Drug Controllers requesting them to put a strict vigil on the online sale of medicines and take action against those indulging in online sale of medicines in violation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules.

.....