

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1040
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2026**

PRESCRIPTION AND AVAILABILITY OF GENERIC MEDICINES

1040. SHRI NAVASKANI K:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for doctors to prescribe generic medicines or medicines by their salt names instead of branded drugs to ensure affordable treatment for patients, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the impact of such a measure on reducing out-of-pocket expenditure, particularly among poor and middle-class families in rural areas, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any guidelines or directions have been issued to Government and private healthcare institutions in Tamil Nadu regarding the prescription of generic medicines, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any assessment regarding the availability and uninterrupted supply of essential generic medicines in Government hospitals and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) across Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen awareness, quality assurance and accessibility of affordable generic medicines, particularly for patients suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular ailments in Tamil Nadu?

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

(a) to (e): Clause 1.5 of the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 provides 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 Directorate General of Health Services has instructed vide order dated 12.05.2023 that all doctors in Central Government hospitals, CGHS Wellness Centres and polyclinics prescribe generic medicines.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has informed that the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC) ensures the uninterrupted availability of essential generic medicines to Government Medical College Hospitals, Government Hospitals, Urban Primary Health Centres and Primary Health Centres through the Drug Distribution Management System (DDMS), which enables real-time monitoring of stock availability, consumption, indent fulfilment and supply status.

Further, TNMSC procures quality-assured generic medicines for Co-operative Societies implementing the Mudhalvar Marunthagam Scheme, thereby ensuring the availability of affordable generic medicines to the public.

The Tamil Nadu Government, through TNMSC, has implemented the following measures to ensure the quality and accessibility of affordable generic medicines:

- i. Medicines are procured through transparent tender procedures only from manufacturers complying with the prescribed statutory and quality requirements.
- ii. Drug batches supplied to TNMSC are subjected to quality testing through empanelled NABL-accredited laboratories before release for distribution. Medicines failing to conform to the prescribed quality standards are rejected and appropriate contractual action is initiated.
- iii. Essential generic medicines included in the approved Essential Drugs List are supplied free of cost to Government health institutions to ensure uninterrupted treatment, particularly for patients suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.
- iv. The Essential Drugs List is periodically reviewed and updated based on expert recommendations and prevailing treatment guidelines to ensure availability of appropriate medicines.
- v. Awareness regarding rational prescribing and use of generic medicines is promoted by the concerned Directorates through training and capacity-building programmes for healthcare professionals.
