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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1096
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2026

PRESCRIPTION OF GENERIC MEDICINES BY GOVERNMENT DOCTORS

†1096. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI RAMPRIT MANDAL:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has issued any instructions to all Government doctors to prescribe generic medicines as far as possible, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also true that most of the medicines being distributed and used in Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and in Government hospitals in various States are generic medicines;

(c) if so, the details of the arrangements made by the Government to ensure the quality, safety and testing of generic medicines as per the prescribed standards keeping in view their large scale supply and use across the country; and

(d) the details of the provisions made and steps taken by the Government regarding quality testing, inspection, sample testing, laboratory set up quality control mechanisms and compliance of standards of generic medicines?

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

(a) & (b): 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. Further, 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.

(c) & (d): Further, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have taken following regulatory measures to ensure the import and manufacture of safe, efficacious and quality medicines across the country:

(i) The Central Government has amended the Drugs Rules 1945 vide G.S.R. 922 (E) dated 28.12.2023 to revise the schedule M to the said rules related to Good Manufacturing Practices and requirements of premises, plant and equipment for pharmaceutical products. Revised Schedule M has become effective for the drug manufacturers with turnover > Rs. 250 crores from 29.06.2024 and for manufacturers having turnover of less than Rs. 250 Cr from 01.01.2026.

(ii) The Drugs Rules, 1945 have been amended in year 2023 to mandate that manufacturers of the top 300 drug formulation brands listed in Schedule H2 shall print or affix a Bar Code or QR Code on the primary packaging label, or on the secondary label where space is insufficient, to store data readable through software applications for authentication. Similarly, the Rules have also been amended to require that every Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (bulk drug), whether manufactured or imported, shall bear a QR Code on each level of packaging containing data readable through software applications to facilitate tracking and tracing.

(iii) An online portal, SUGAM labs is in place since September 2023 for integrating the drug testing labs of the CDSCO. It automates the entire workflow for testing of Medical Products (Drugs, Vaccine, Cosmetics & Medical devices) to meet the quality specification and tracing the testing status in the laboratories.

(iv) In February 2024, CDSCO published regulatory guidelines for the sampling of drugs, cosmetics, and medical devices by Central and State Drugs Inspectors. These guidelines provide a structured approach to ensure the quality and efficacy of products available in the market through uniform drug sampling methodology.

(v) In order to assess the regulatory compliance of drug manufacturing premises in the country, the CDSCO along with State Drugs Controllers (SDCs) have conducted Risk-Based Inspections of more than 1040 premises since December, 2022 and based on findings, more than 950 actions like issuance of show cause notices, stop production order, suspension, cancellation of licenses /product licenses, warning letters have been taken by the State Licensing Authorities.

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