

>

Title: Regarding online sale of medicines-laid.

DR. A. CHELLAKUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): Shopping from an online pharmacy is nowadays very popular among the people of India. While shopping online in India has proved to be a boon for customers, Doctors have mixed opinion on buying medicines online. While there are benefits, one should not overlook the risk involved.

Apart from price discounts and the comfort of shopping from home, people also buy medicines to treat insomnia and anxiety, out of their desire for privacy. Illegal and unethical online pharmacies sometimes send outdated, counterfeit medications. At the same time, the brand names may often cause confusion. They may be of the same brand but with different medicines or even lookalike drugs with different ingredients. Ultimately, the patients are at the receiving end of wrong medicines. People buy drugs without original prescriptions. There is no proper technical infrastructure in place to monitor the sale of online drugs.

Moreover, due to the popularity of online pharmacy, the offline/retail shops having about 8.5 lakh members are losing their normal business. Recently, medical shops across India went on a strike to protest against online pharmacies saying this system encourages irrational use of medicines and sale of fake drugs.

In view of the above, I request the Union Government through you, Sir, to take immediate measures to have a proper regulatory mechanism to safeguard the patients from the menace of fake drugs through online pharmacy and also save the business of retail pharmacy shops.

