

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:420  
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2006  
REGISTRATION OF BRAND NAMES OF MEDICINES  
Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

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

- (a) whether all medicines are prescribed and sold under brand names;
- (b) whether it is mandatory to get approval for and register brand names with any Central Authority in India;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any law to prohibit the use of old established brand names even after the ingredients are changed/altered; and
- (e) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

- a) : As per norms prescribed under the drugs and cosmetics rules, medicines can be prescribed and sold under brand names as well as generic names.
- (b) & (c) : It is not mandatory to get approval for and register brand names with any central authority in India.
- (d) & (e) : There are no legal restrictions on use of old established brand names by firms even after some ingredients are changed or altered.