

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2974

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2015

SALE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Choudhary Shri Ram Tahal; Giluwa Shri Laxman; Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi; Munde Dr. Pritam Gopinath; Pal Shri Jagdambika

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

- (a) whether a number of non-prescribed medicines and drug combination containing undefined value or quantity of food supplements/steroids/tonics are being sold over the counter throughout the country, and if so, the details thereof indicating the estimated annual turnover of the prescribed and non-prescribed medicines, separately in the country;
- (b) whether widespread and indiscriminate sale of medicines, steroids, food supplements and triple/quadruple drug combinations has led to rising instances of drug resistant infections in the country, and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated/proposes to formulate any guidelines/policy to rationalize the sale and use of steroids food supplements and drugs including various drug combinations in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the measures being taken by the Government to make doctor's prescription mandatory for sale of drugs and enforce the aforesaid guidelines/policy; and
- (e) the action plan of the Government to improve access to new prescription drugs not produced by generic drug manufacturers in the Country?

Answer

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

(a): No such report has been received by the Government.

(b) to (e): The Government is aware of the existence of multi-drug resistance. A Task Force constituted by the Government recommended various steps to rationalize the use of antibiotics in the country. Based on the recommendations of the Task Force, the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 have been amended vide Gazette Notification GSR 588 (E) dated 30-08-2013 incorporating a new Schedule H1 to restrict indiscriminate sale of certain antibiotics, Anti TB drugs and habit forming drugs. Accordingly, such drugs can be sold only on prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner.