

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 892
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH JULY, 2024**

SALE OF DRUGS

892. SHRI SELVAGANAPATHI T.M.:

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

(a) whether the Government intends to permit the sale of drugs without a licence in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether such a move would not contravene existing drug laws, pharmacy regulations and pertinent legal frameworks including directives from the Hon'ble Supreme Court and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether allowing Over-the-counter (OTC) drug sales without proper regulation could not pose serious threats, including drug abuse, increased risk of adverse drug reaction, delayed access to healthcare, possible compromise in storage of medicines and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has held any discussions with the stakeholders, including All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists which has been opposing the said move and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) & (b): There is no proposal to permit the sale of drugs without a license in the Country. However, under Schedule K of Drugs Rules 1945 exemptions from requirements of sale license for sale of certain drugs have been provided subject to certain conditions.

(c) & (d): There is no terminology as “Over-The-Counter (OTC) drugs” included in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder. There are adequate regulations under the said Act and Drug Rules, 1945 for regulation of sale of drugs in the Country.
