

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:818

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2011

USE OF ANTIBIOTICS

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

- (a) the existing policy/guidelines to curb the indiscriminate use of antibiotics in the country;
- (b) whether the Task Force constituted for the purpose has since submitted its report;
- (c) if so, the details of the recommendations made thereby and the follow up action taken thereon;
- (d) if not, the time by which recommendations are likely to be submitted by the said Committee;and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to encourage the pharmaceutical companies to take up the research and development works in antibiotics?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRVEDI)

- (a) Antibiotics are included in Schedule H of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 and are, therefore, required to be sold only on the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner.
- (b) & (c) Yes. In its voluminous report, the Task Force has, inter alia, recommended a separate schedule of drugs to be introduced under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules to exclusively regulate sale of antibiotics, introduction of a system of colour coding of 3rd generation antibiotics and all newer molecules like Carbapenem, types of surveillances to be done for antimicrobial resistance, conducting a study on prescription patterns, setting up of an Antibiotic Management Team (AMT) with experts from different clinical and pharmaceutical streams, conducting environmental surveillance as an interface between veterinary, industrial and human health, etc.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Government encourages overall research in all areas of pharmaceuticals, especially in respect of diseases affecting the poor and disadvantaged classes of society and promotion of generic drugs so as to make available to them quality medicines at affordable prices.