

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1094

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2011

ANTIBIOTIC POLICY

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated a draft antibiotic policy to check the recurrence of the cases of drug resistant infections by restricting and rationalising the use of antibiotics in the country;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the said policy;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to ensure that all antibiotics are sold by the medicine shops only on doctor's prescription; and
- (d) the time by which the antibiotic policy is likely to be operationalised?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) to (d): A Task Force was constituted under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services to assess, review and suggest measures on anti-microbio resistant. The Task Force, in its recommendations, has inter alia suggested to include a separate Schedule under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules to regulate sale of antibiotics, curtailing the availability of Fixed Dose combinations, colour coding of third generation of antibiotics and restricting their access only to tertiary care hospitals, development of standardised AST (Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing) methodology, development of detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for microbial identification and for reporting and training of doctors.

There are provisions under the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, which mandate that antibiotics are sold on the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP).