

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2114
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2011
SALE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS
Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa

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

- (a) whether a number of prescription drugs are being sold without prescription over the counter (OTC) in pharmacies across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of pharmacies/persons held for such offences;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take any stringent measures to control the same; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) & (b): The regulatory control over the sale of drugs is exercised by the drugs control authorities appointed by the State and Union Territory Governments under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 made thereunder. The State and Union Territory Governments are responsible for taking action as per the provisions of the said Act.

(c) & (d): The Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 has been amended in the year 2008 to make more stringent provisions of penalties for offences under the said Act. The State and Union Territory Governments have been asked to strengthen their manpower as well as the infrastructure of their drug control departments for having better vigilance over the sale of drugs in the country.