

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4102
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2011
GENERIC AND CHEMICAL NAME OF DRUGS
Singh Chaudhary Lal

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for all Government hospital doctors to prescribe generic and chemical name of drugs;
- (b) if so, to what extent this move is likely to cut medicine costs;
- (c) whether the Government hospital doctors had earlier been advised to write the name of the generic equivalent alongwith the brand; and
- (d) if so, the impact thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) 'Health' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government to issue such instructions to their Government hospitals.

However, in view of the ever increasing cost of public health care delivery, making available less priced quality unbranded generic medicines for all, all Central Government hospitals/dispensaries in Delhi and outside Delhi have been instructed to advise their medical practioners to prescribe only generic versions of medicines in the hospitals / dispensaries/ wellness centres and whenever the branded versions are prescribed, these should be supplemented with or equivalent ingredients.

Hospitals have also been informed that generic medicines are equivalent to the branded medicines in terms of efficacy and quality as they contain the same active ingredients in the same concentration in the same dosage form and also meet the same standard.