

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:777
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011
GENERIC NAMES OF MEDICINES
Singh Chaudhary Lal

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued instructions to Government hospitals to prescribe generic names medicines alongwith the brand names;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether these instructions are being followed by the hospitals;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (e): "Health" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government to issue such instruction 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.

Hospitals authorities have issued the instruction to all the Heads of the Departments to monitor that treating doctors are prescribing Generic Medicine only.