

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:611

ANSWERED ON:18.05.2012

SALE OF SEDATIVE DRUGS

Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of illegal sale of cough syrups and tablets without proper medical prescription targeting the younger generation who use them as sedatives;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of such complaints received, illegal consignment of sedative drugs including cough syrup seized from the drug stores and action taken against the errant drug dealers during the last three years and the current year so far, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has proposed/taken any measures to put a cap on the stock of these sedative medicines by drug stores and to ensure their sale only on doctor's prescription; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 611 FOR 18.05.2012

(a) The State Drugs Control Authorities of the states/UTs of Jammu & Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal have informed that illegal sale of cough syrups and tablets without proper medical prescription has been reported in their States/UTs.

(b)&(c): As per information made available by the State Drugs Controllers, a statement indicating the details of cases detected and action taken thereon during the last three years and the current year is annexed.

(d) & (e): There is no proposal under consideration to put a cap on the stock of these medicines at the chemist shops as it may result in non-availability of such drugs to the legitimate users. However, following preventive measures have been taken:

(i) A notification GSR 228 (E) dated 20.03.2012 has been published in the Gazette of India containing the draft amendments to the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 for taking out all antibiotics, TB drugs and certain habit forming drugs from the existing Schedule 'H' of the said Rules and putting them in a separate new Schedule 'H1' stipulating that the container of the substance specified in such Schedule 'H1' will be labelled with a symbol 'Rx' which shall be in red colour and conspicuously displayed on the left corner of the label with the warning - 'It is dangerous to take this prescription except in accordance with medical advice and not to be sold by retail without the prescription of the Registered Medical Practitioner.'

(ii) The State Governments have taken initiatives to increase vigilance over the shops in the areas where illegal sale of these drugs has been reported.

(iii) The penal provisions for various offences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 have been made more stringent by the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008.