

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2130

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012

GENERIC DRUGS

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to low prescription of generic drugs by doctors in the country in comparison to the United States (USA) and United Kingdom where generic drugs are commonly prescribed by the doctors;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon indicating the percentage of generic drugs prescribed by the doctors in the country during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey/study to ascertain the reasons for which doctors avoid to prescribe generic medicines to patients in the country;
- (d) if so, the details along with the outcome thereof and the corrective steps taken/proposed by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the other measures taken/proposed by the Government to popularize generic medicines and ensure quality and standards of these medicines?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): No survey / study has been conducted by the Government to ascertain the reasons for which doctors avoid to prescribe generic medicines to patients in the country, nor is any data centrally maintained on the percentage of generic drugs prescribed by the doctors. The Government is aware of the fact that generic drugs are cheaper than the branded drugs. The Government is taking steps to ensure that the doctors prescribe more and more generic drugs to the patients. Instructions have been issued to all Central Government Hospitals to advise medical practitioners to prescribe only generic versions of medicines and to mention generic equivalents wherever branded medicines are prescribed. The Central Government Hospitals are procuring medicines in generic names and their hospital formularies are also in generic name. Advisories have also been issued to the State / Union Territory Governments in this regard. Several State / Union Territory Governments have initiated schemes for free supply of drugs which are procured in generic names only.

In addition, the Department of Pharmaceuticals in the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers has also initiated a Jan Aushadhi Campaign under which quality unbranded generic medicines are provided through Jan Aushadhi Stores at affordable prices. That Department has informed that at present 231 medicines are being supplied in the 125 Jan Aushadhi Stores opened so far (till 21.8.2012) throughout the country. The campaign is expected to lead to reduction of state health expenditure on branded medicines, more patient coverage and popularization of the use of unbranded generic medicines, which will bring down the actual out-of-pocket expenses of medicines for the common man.