

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2279
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012
BARCODES FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES
Tandon Annu

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

- (a) the status and details of the Government initiative to make it mandatory for using of barcodes for medical supplies; and
- (b) the current mechanism/s by which the Government tracks the supplies of medicines under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to remote rural areas, especially in the light of reports of the rampant availability of fake medicines?

Answer

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

(a) As per Public Notices issued by DGFT, exporters of pharmaceutical products are required to affix barcodes on their export products to facilitate tracing and tracking. The barcode requirements for this purpose apply to packaging at Primary, Secondary and Tertiary levels. The Tertiary Level requirements have come into effect from 1.10.2011. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) has also laid down the barcode requirements and implementation timelines for the medicines/drugs (except medical devices & equipments) procured by it under various programmes for supply and distribution through MoHFW regulated distribution channel (PHCs, CHCs/FRUs, Govt. hospitals etc.).

(b) The medicines for distribution under various national health programmes are mainly procured centrally by the MoHFW and distributed to states. The supplies are tracked by the procurement and programme divisions of the MoHFW as well as by the states. Further, to ensure procurement of quality drugs, certain norms are followed in the tender process, such as GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) compliance, valid manufacturing/import license, pre-dispatch quality control manufacturing and marketing experience, minimum turnover criteria, etc.