

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:357

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2012

GENERIC MEDICINES

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Sule Supriya

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

- (a) the revenue received on account of export of generic medicines and the total sale of these medicines at home during each of the last three years and the current year, State /UT-wise;
- (b) whether several doctors avoid prescribing generic medicines to the patients in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has urged the State drug licence issuing authorities to issue licenses only on generic names and not on branded or trade names; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the other steps taken/proposed by the Government to promote manufacturing, prescription and use of generic medicines and to meet any shortage of these medicines in the country?

**Answer**

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

- (a) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.
- (b) & (c) Some doctors in the country prefer to prescribe branded medicines with the belief that they are more efficacious than their generic formulations.
- (d) & (e) The Government has issued statutory direction to the State / UT Governments on 1.10.2012 under the provision of section 33P of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 to grant / renew licenses to manufacture for sale or for distribution of drugs in proper / generic names only. The Government has also published a draft notification GSR 748(E) dated 5.10.2012 for amending Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 allowing issuance of licenses of single ingredient drugs in generic / proper names only. In so far as promoting prescription of generic medicines is concerned, the Government has been discussing the issue with the State Governments from time to time and impressing upon them to take time bound steps in this regard. At central level, repeated circulars / instructions have been issued to all Government hospitals and CGHS dispensaries to prescribe generic medicines to the maximum extent possible. At the hospitals level also, circulars by Medical Superintendants of hospitals in Delhi have been issued from time to time encouraging / motivating doctors to prescribe generic drugs. AIIMS has made arrangement for operating a medicine outlet in its premises for providing generic medicines to patients. It has operationalized for its Employees Health Scheme a software that converts the name of branded drugs into their generic versions. This software will also be used for the outlet for supplying generic medicines. The Department of Pharmaceuticals has also launched a country wide campaign in the name of 'Jan Aushadhi Campaign' in collaboration with the State Governments by way of opening of Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug Stores in the Government Hospitals and supply of medicines through Central Pharma PSUs. At present, 231 medicines are being supplied in the 122 Jan Aushadhi Stores opened till 30th July, 2012.