

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1788
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2013
ANTIBIOTIC POLICY.
Bauri Smt. Susmita;Ray Shri Saugata

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

- (a) whether the Government is framing a comprehensive policy to address the problem of multi drugs resistance due to widespread and indiscriminate use of antimicrobial/antibiotic drugs in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the salient features of the said policy;
- (c) whether there is a delay in implementing the said policy;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which the said policy is likely to be implemented in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): The Government has already framed a comprehensive policy, namely, the National Policy for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance, to address the problem of multi-drug resistance due to widespread and indiscriminate use of antimicrobial / antibiotic drugs in the country. The policy was developed by a Task Force constituted under the chairmanship of Director General of Health Services to address the problem. The policy is available on the web-site of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The salient features of the policy are as follows:

- 1.To review the current situation regarding manufacture, use and misuse of antibiotics in the country.
- 2.To recommend the design for creation of a national Surveillance System for Antibiotic Resistance
- 3.To initiate studies documenting prescriptions patterns & establish a Monitoring system for the same.
- 4.To enforce and enhance regulatory provisions for use of antibiotics in human and veterinary and industrial use.
- 5.To recommend specific intervention measures such as rational use of antibiotics and antibiotic policies in hospitals
- 6.Diagnostic Methods pertaining to antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring

Under the 12th Five Year Plan there is the target to initiate steps for the containment of antimicrobial resistance in the country through 30 lab networks and awareness activity for rational use of antibiotics.

The aforesaid Task Force had also recommended insertion of a separate schedule under the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules to regulate the sale of antibiotics, especially 3rd and 4th generation antibiotics in the country. In pursuance of that recommendation, the Government issued a draft notification GSR 228 (E) dated 20-03-2012 for inviting comments from the public proposing to insert a new Schedule in the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 containing habit forming drugs and certain Anti-TB drugs along with antibiotics. The container of the drugs covered under new Schedule 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.'