

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3336
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2013
GENERIC MEDICINES
Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Ray Shri Rudramadhab

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that generic medicines are being made available to the chemists and wholesalers at a heavy discount while the same are being supplied to the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) hospitals, dispensaries and other such Government agencies at Maximum Retail Price (MRP) or marginal discount;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard and the corrective measures taken/proposed by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any instructions to the hospitals to advise medical practitioners to prescribe only generic versions of medicines or to mention generic equivalents;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed by the Government to ensure the adherence to the instructions; and
- (e) the other measures being taken by the Government to promote generic medicines and ensure their quality in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Generic medicines for CGHS are procured at rates fixed through tender process by Medical Store Organization (MSO), a Central Government organization. Whenever the generic medicine prescribed by the doctor is not available in CGHS, the same is procured through the Authorised Local Chemist. The rates of discounts by local chemists are obtained through tender process. These discount rates are from 15% to 29% on MRP in Delhi/NCR area.

(c) & (d): Instructions have been issued to all the central health institutions to prescribe generic medicines which are usually economical than the branded drugs. Whenever any branded drug is prescribed, it should invariably be mentioned that any other equivalent generic drugs could also be provided. There is a system of stamping the CGHS prescription slips issued from the CGHS wings of Safdarjung Hospital mentioning that "Equivalent Generic Drug could also be provided".

(e): Circular has been issued instructing CMOs In-charge of all CGHS wellness centres to issue the generic equivalent in place of branded drugs /medicines. They have been further directed not to procure such medicines through Authorized Local Chemist or Pilot Project for which the generic equivalents are readily available at CGHS, Medical Store Depot, Delhi. 78 Generic Drugs have been provisioned and supply order to the HSCC (I) Ltd has been issued in the financial year 2012-13 for Delhi NCR. The medicines are received at CGHS, Medical Store Depot (MSD) after due testing by two Govt. approved labs by HSCC (I) Ltd.