

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:68

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2015

e-Pharmacy

Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao;Singh Shri Bharatendra

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

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

- (a) the existing policy of the Government to regulate e-pharmacy or online sale of drugs in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has recently initiated inquiry against certain online e-commerce companies for alleged sale of prescription drugs that can be sold only when prescribed by a medical practitioner;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate fresh rules and guidelines to regulate e-pharmacy business including those for intermediaries i.e. doctors, pharmacists, service portals involved therein; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 68 FOR 24TH JULY, 2015

- (a) In accordance with the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder, the sale of drugs in the country is regulated by State Licensing Authorities. Sale of drugs can, as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, be undertaken only in accordance with the conditions of licence which inter alia include adequacy of the premises, proper storage facilities for preserving the properties of the drugs, requirement of a competent person to supervise and control the sale of drugs, etc. The rules also prescribe that sale of prescription drugs at the retail level included in schedule and supply of any drug otherwise than by way of wholesale on the prescription of a registered medical practitioner, can be effected only under the personal supervision of a registered pharmacist. Further, proper records are required to be maintained in case of prescription drugs. Online sale of drugs or e-pharmacy is presently not allowed.
- (b) and (c): Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Maharashtra has taken regulatory action against some online e-commerce companies found to be selling/ distributing prescription drugs to consumers through internet without valid sale bill and requisite licences.
- (d) Currently there is no such proposal.
- (e) Does not arise.