

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4045

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2015

ANTIBIOTIC POLICY

Mullappally Shri Ramachandran; Rao Shri Rayapati Sambasiva

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

- (a) whether India is the largest consumer of antibiotics in the world and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether easy availability and widespread and indiscriminate use of antibiotic drugs in the market have contributed to the high rate of antibiotic resistance to a number of standard antibiotics among the people in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether national data on bacterial resistance to antibiotics is available in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to launch a national policy on antimicrobials use to control the rising trend of antimicrobial resistance and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): information regarding consumption of antibiotics in India is not being centrally collected.

However, irrational uses of antibiotics including irregular, incomplete and inadequate treatments along with overuse of antibiotics are known drivers of drug resistance.

In order to strengthen the surveillance of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the country, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has set up a National Anti-Microbial Resistance Research and Surveillance Network (AMRRSN) to enable compilation of National Data of AMR at different levels of Health Care.

The Drugs and Cosmetic Rule, 1945 were amended in 2013 to incorporate a new Schedule H1 under the said rules containing 46 drugs which include 3rd and 4th generation anti-biotics, anti TB drugs and certain habit forming drugs for having strict control over the sale of these drugs. The Drugs falling under Schedule H1 are required to be sold in the country with the following conditions:

1. The supply of a drug specified in Schedule H1 shall be recorded in a separate register at the time of the supply giving the name and address of the prescriber, the name of the patient, the name of the drug and the quantity supplied and such records shall be maintained for three years and be open for inspection.
2. The drug specified in Schedule H1 shall be labeled with the symbol Rx which shall be in red and conspicuously displayed on the left top corner of the label, and shall also be labeled with the following words in a box with a red border:

Schedule H1 Drug Warning:

It is dangerous to take this preparation except in accordance with the medical advice.

Not to be sold by retail without the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner."

Further, Government of India has formulated a National policy for containment of antimicrobial resistance in 2014. A National Programme for Containment of AMR. has also been initiated in 12th Five Year Plan with the following objectives.

To establish a laboratory based surveillance system by strengthening laboratories for AMR in the country and to generate quality data on antimicrobial resistance for pathogens of public health importance.

To generate awareness among healthcare providers and in the community regarding rational use of antibiotics.

To strengthen infection control guidelines and practices and promote rational use of antibiotics.