

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:177  
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2015  
Sale of Sedative Drugs  
Singh Shri Rakesh

**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) whether the Government has taken note of illegal sale of cough syrups and tablets/injections without proper medical prescription targeting the younger generation who use them as sedatives and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether instances of illegal supply of such drugs to foreign countries have also been reported in the recent past and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of such complaints received, illegal consignment of sedative drugs including cough syrup seized from the drug stores and action taken against the errant drug dealers during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UTwise; and
- (d) the measures being taken by the Government to frame stringent rules and their strict enforcement to ensure that these drugs are sold only on doctor"s prescription in the country?

**Answer**

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.177 FOR 31ST JULY, 2015

- (a): Sale and distribution of drugs in the country is regulated under the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made there under by the State Licensing Authorities. As per information made available by States/Union Territories, illegal sale of tablets/injections and cough syrups containing habit forming drugs such as codeine has been reported in the country.
- (b): Instances of illegal supply of Phensedyl cough syrup containing Codeine phosphate to foreign countries have been detected in the country.
- (c): The requisite details are indicated in the Annexure.
- (d): The sale of drugs is required to be regulated in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. These rules inter alia prescribe that sale of prescription drugs at retail level and supply of any drug otherwise than by way of wholesale, can be effected only on the prescription of a registered medical practitioner, under the personal supervision of a registered pharmacist. Further, proper records are also required to be maintained in case of prescription drugs.