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Title: Need to devise a mechanism to monitor selling of medicines and drugs by e-pharmacies.

DR. MAMTAZ SANGHAMITA (BARDHMAN DURGAPUR): It is a matter of grave concern that the Government seems to have no mechanism to control or monitor the dispensing, selling or trading of medicines and drugs through Internet, raising the possibility of compromising the quality and impact of these medicines - which is a threat by itself.

Some web portals are offering medicines directly to customers without compliance of Government norms and regulations. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 (Rule 1945) envisages the mandatory disclosure of stocks, storage procedure etc. apart from monitoring the manufacture, distribution, and sale of medicines - which are scrutinized by the government regularly. But the e-pharmacies are selling medicines to people blatantly disregarding any regulation, even as some scheduled drugs are being sold without asking for prescription. A patient in need, even the Government, has no scope to verify the quality or standard of the medicine bought through internet, as the storage system is never disclosed online and medicines are being delivered by local courier companies. Moreover, any vigilant monitoring mechanism or recall of medicines is also impossible in such cases.

In this scenario, I request the Government to intervene immediately to check and monitor the 'home delivery' system of medicines. I further urge upon the Government to modify the existing laws.