

Selling of unbranded drugs

3788. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that several 'unbranded' drugs are being sold in the market under 'branded names' at the same cost and the labels do not contain the Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) and generic name; and

(b) if so, the check the Ministry is exercising on pharmaceutical companies in the country, price-wise and FDC-wise to save the common man from paying heavy cost on generic drugs as poor people cannot afford to pay?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) There is no drug which can be termed as 'unbranded drug' under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Drugs & Cosmetic Rules, 1945 made thereunder. However, rule 96(1)(i) of these Rules contain the provision for mentioning the proper name of the drug on the label in a more conspicuous manner than the trade name, if any. Further, the Government has also issued statutory direction to the State/UT Governments on 1.10.2012 under Section 33P of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 to instruct their respective drug licensing authorities to grant/renew licenses to manufacture for sale or for distribution of drugs in proper/generic names only. However, The Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, 1945 made thereunder do not administer pricing of drugs.

Illegally operating hospitals

3789. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that several hospitals across the country do not have relevant documents and are operating illegally;

(b) if so, the details thereof, hospital-wise and Government's reaction thereon;

(c) whether Government has taken/proposes to take any steps to curb such hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and