

by switching back to the previous arrangement regarding time period of issued medicines *i.e.* 3 months for chronic disease and 6 months in case of visit abroad.

Easy availability of prescription drugs

257. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government is drawn to the fact that prescription drugs continue to be easily available over the counter in pharmacies across the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to address the easy access to antibiotics, in light of the increasing bacterial resistance to drugs; and

(c) whether any campaigns have been initiated to advise patients against self medication and over use of antibiotics?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) Yes.

(b) As per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder, drugs included in Schedule H, Schedule HI and Schedule X of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules are required to be sold in retail on the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) only. In case of violation, State Licensing Authorities are empowered to take action under the Act. In order to curb easy access to antibiotics and habit forming drugs, the Drugs and Cosmetics Rule, 1945 were amended *vide* Gazette Notification G.S.R. 588(E) dated 30.08.2013 incorporating a new Schedule H1 in the Rules to restrict indiscriminate sale of certain antibiotics, Anti TB drugs and habit forming drugs.

(c) The National Programme on containment of Anti-Microbial Resistance is being implemented to propogate rational use of antibiotics in hospitals and training and capacity building of professionals in relevant sectors.

Waiving of clinical trials for anti-cancer drugs

258. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the advisory panel on medicines has recommended to Government for waiving of clinical trials in India for two new cancer drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and