

Regulating online sale of medicines

623. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage share of medicines being sold online in the country;
- (b) whether a high-level Committee constituted by Government to look into the regulation of sale of medicines online has submitted its report; and
- (c) if so, the salient features and recommendations of the report and the steps being proposed by Government to regulate the sale of medicines online?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) Data in this regard is not maintained Centrally.

(b) A Sub-Committee had been constituted by the Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) to examine issues relating to online sale of drugs. The Sub-Committee has submitted its report to the Drugs Consultative Committee.

(c) The Sub-Committee has *inter alia* recommended:—

- Creation of a National Portal to act as the nodal platform for transacting and monitoring online sale of drugs.
- Necessity of evolving a mechanism to register e-pharmacies.
- Geographical restrictions for operation of e-pharmacies.
- Existing licencees involved in retail sale of drugs could also register on the National Portal for carrying out online sale of drugs.
- certain categories of drugs viz. the Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, tranquilizers, habit forming drugs and Schedule X drugs that are prone to being abused or misused be excluded from sale through e-pharmacies.

All matters relating to sale of drugs including through online will continue to be regulated in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 as amended from time to time.

Action against soft drinks companies for toxic contents in their products

†624. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether toxic contents in soft drinks of several companies have been found in excess of prescribed limits during investigation thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.