

**Rising problem of multi-drug resistant deaths**

3002. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is a rising problem of multi-drug resistant deaths in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government aims at taking to reduce the overuse and unsupervised use of antibiotics by patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Government of India is aware of the rising problem of multi-drug resistance in the country which at times may lead to deaths due to invasive infectious complications.

To address the problem of growing Antimicrobial Resistance, Government of India has launched the 'National Programme on Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance' under the Twelfth Five Year Plan with National Centre of Disease Control (NCDC) as the Coordinating Centre. Under this Programme, IEC activities are being conducted for creating awareness in community for rational use of drugs.

Drugs and Cosmetics Rules of 1945, are amended to control the overuse of 24 antibiotics and other drugs through over-the counter sale without prescription by the pharmacies. Schedule H1 drugs can be sold only on production of a valid prescription by registered medical practitioner and a warning to this effect is printed on the label in a Box with Red border and Rx symbol.

Pharmacists now have to document identity of the patient, contact details of the prescribing doctor and the name and dispensed quantity of the drug in a separate register, subject to regular inspections by drug control officials. This register has to be retained for at least three years.

**Distributing drugs and medicines for free**

3003. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to distribute life-saving drugs and generic medicines free of cost to enhance healthcare services;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the financial and operational provision for the same;