

**Compulsory Bar Coding of medicines**

1204. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRARAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is introducing Bar Coding for the medicines being sold in the country and making it compulsory, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that this will check the counterfeit medicines and fake drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers *vide* Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India), Order, 2017 (revised) dated 14.01.2019 about pharmaceutical formulations had made it mandatory for all medicines procured under Public Procurement to have barcode/QR code at primary level packaging from 01.04.2019, in order to enable tracking and tracing of the pharmaceutical formulations, thereby establishing the authenticity of the products.

Subsequently, Department of Pharmaceuticals has decided to give pharmaceutical industry a transition time of one year for universal implementation of such technologies from April, 2020.

**Enforcing plain packaging of tobacco products**

1205. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to enforce plain packaging of tobacco products;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor given the still high rates of tobacco consumption in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (c) No, there is no such proposal at present under consideration of this Ministry. The Government has notified the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008, which were subsequently amended from time to time. These Rules mandate display of specified health warnings including quitline number covering 85% of both sides of the principal display area of the package of tobacco product. It also mandates that no messages, images or pictures that directly or indirectly promote use or consumption of a specific tobacco brand or tobacco usage in general or any matter or statement which is inconsistent With, or detracts from, the specified health warning, are inscribed on the tobacco product packages.