

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3146  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**PRIVATE COMPANIES SELLING FAKE COVID-19 MEDICINES**

**3146 # SMT. CHHAYA VERMA:**

**SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:**

**CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that some private companies or institutions are selling medicines for dealing with COVID-19 without obtaining necessary permission from the authorities;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by Government to prevent such fake medicines;
- (c) the number of institutes which claim to have manufactured Ayurvedic medicines for COVID-19;
- (d) the details of steps taken to verify such claims; and
- (e) whether it is also a fact that such fake Ayurvedic medicines for COVID-19 are being publicised by newspapers and TV channels?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (d): The manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs including Ayurveda Siddha & Unani medicines in the country is regulated under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945. Licenses for manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs are granted by the State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) appointed by respective State Governments. SLAs are legally empowered to take stringent action against violation of provisions of the Act and Rules.

Government has not received any such report.

Further, the Government is committed to ensuring that the quality, safety and efficacy of drugs are not compromised. With this in view, the Government has taken a series of measures including strengthening of legal provisions, workshops and training programmes for manufacturers and regulatory officials and measures such as risk based inspections.

(e): Advertisements concerning drugs are regulated under the provisions of Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 which is administered by State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) appointed by the respective State Governments. SLAs are legally empowered to take action in case of non-compliance.

As per existing regulatory framework, programmes and advertisements telecast on private satellite, TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 framed thereunder. The said codes contain a wide range of parameters to regulate content on TV. The Government takes action in cases where Programme/Advertising Codes are found to be violated by the private TV channels, including issuance of advisory, warning, running an apology scroll and in extreme cases, directing the channel to be off air for a certain time duration.

Ministry of AYUSH issued an order dated 01.04.2020 to stop and prevent, publicity and advertisement of AYUSH related claims for COVID-19 treatment in print, TV and electronic media.