

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 417  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2024**

**OVERPRESCRIPTION OF ANTIBIOTICS IN THE COUNTRY**

**417 SHRI A. D. SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether a survey of nearly 10 thousand hospitals by the National Centre for Diseases Control (NCDC), has found that more than half of the patients were given antibiotics to prevent rather than treat the infection;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether indiscreet prescribing of antibiotics is one of the major causes of microbial resistance in the country; and
- (d) the efforts being made by Government to control the tendency of overprescription of antibiotics?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(PROF. SATYA PAL SINGH BAGHEL)**

**(a) & (b)** National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) conducted point prevalence survey (PPS) on antibiotic use at 20 tertiary care government hospitals (NAC-NET sites). This study was conducted amongst 9653 eligible patients admitted in these 20 hospitals. 71.9% of the patients received antibiotics. Of those who were prescribed antibiotics, 54.8% received antibiotics for prophylactic indications (Surgical Prophylaxis 37.3% and Medical prophylaxis 17.5%).

**(c) & (d)** Yes, indiscreet prescribing of antibiotics is one of the major causes of microbial resistance in the country, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has taken following initiatives to promote judicious use of antimicrobials:

MoHFW launched Red Line awareness campaign on Antimicrobials Resistance, urging people not to use medicines marked with a red vertical line, including antibiotics, without a doctor's prescription. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released treatment guidelines for antimicrobial use in common syndromes which contain guidelines for use of antibiotics for viral bronchitis and low-grade fever. Antibiotics are included in Schedule H and H1 of the Drugs Rules, 1945. These drugs have specific caution labeling requirements and are sold only under the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner. The supply of a drug specified in Schedule H1 are recorded in a separate register at the time of the supply and such records are maintained for three years and are open for inspection. Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has placed 24 hi-end antimicrobials under schedule H1 by issuing notification.

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