

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1021
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04TH DECEMBER, 2024

USE OF ANTIBIOTICS IN THE POULTRY SECTOR

1021. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM:

Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that antibiotics are being administered indiscriminately by the poultry farmers across the country, for the poultry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are any guideline existing for use of antibiotics in the poultry sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) steps taken by Government to sensitize the poultry farmers against the indiscriminate use of antibiotics?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)**

(a) & (b) There are no such systematic data is available with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, regarding the use of antibiotics by poultry farmers across the country. However, it has been reported that many poultry farmers use antimicrobials as non-therapeutic feed additives, including as growth promoters.

(c) & (e) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has issued advisories to all States/UTs for judicious use of antibiotics in the livestock sector. CDSCO has also issued various Notices/Advisories/Letters to the State Drugs Regulations, and other stakeholders for strict compliance of the requirements of Drugs and Cosmetic Act and Rules made thereunder and for raising awareness in the public regarding adverse effects of misuse of antibiotics. Further, various awareness programmes amongst the poultry farmers through Poultry Associations are also being organized. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has recently released the *Standard Veterinary Treatment Guidelines for Livestock and Poultry* emphasizing the rational use of antibiotics.

As per the Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1940, the antibiotics are 'scheduled H' Drugs for which import, manufacture and sale of drugs requires license. The drugs are to be sold by the retailers through prescription only. For use of antimicrobials in veterinary the same needs to be prescribed by the

registered Veterinary Practitioners. In order to regulate the sale of antibiotics the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules were amended by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare vide Gazette notification G.S.R. 28(E) dated 17.01.2012, to make a provisions that the container of a medicine for treatment of food producing animals shall be labeled with the withdrawal period of the drug for the species on which it is intended to be used.

India has banned Colistin and its formulations on 19.07.2019 for manufacture, sale and distribution for food producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements. As per the Food Safety and Standards Regulations during processing of meat and meat products, poultry and eggs, sea foods including shrimps, prawns or any variety of fish and fishery products the use of antimicrobials like Nitrofurazone, Chloramphenicol, Furaltadone etc. are banned.

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is sensitizing the Poultry farmers association regarding the judicious use of antimicrobials in poultry in various programmes. The Poultry farmers group and big poultry companies are organizing various workshops and seminars for sensitization of their farmers regarding use of antimicrobials.
