立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(3) 619/15-16

Paper for the House Committee meeting of 27 May 2016

Questions scheduled for the Legislative Council meeting of 1 June 2016

Questions by:

(1)	Hon TANG Ka-piu	(Oral reply)
(2)	Hon Cyd HO	(Oral reply)
(3)	Hon WU Chi-wai	(Oral reply)
(4)	Hon CHAN Kam-lam	(Oral reply)(New question)
	(Replacing his previous question)	
(5)	Hon Christopher CHEUNG	(Oral reply)
(6)	Hon Jeffrey LAM	(Oral reply)
(7)	Hon Albert HO	(Written reply)
(8)	Hon WU Chi-wai	(Written reply)
(9)	Dr Hon Helena WONG	(Written reply)
(10)	Hon Claudia MO	(Written reply)
(11)	Hon Christopher CHUNG	(Written reply)
(12)	Prof Hon Joseph LEE	(Written reply)
(13)	Hon KWOK Wai-keung	(Written reply)
(14)	Hon CHAN Hak-kan	(Written reply)
(15)	Hon Frederick FUNG	(Written reply)
(16)	Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN	(Written reply)
(17)	Hon IP Kwok-him	(Written reply)
(18)	Hon Emily LAU	(Written reply)
(19)	Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT	(Written reply)
(20)	Hon Charles Peter MOK	(Written reply)
(21)	Hon Kenneth LEUNG	(Written reply)
(22)	Hon Jeffrey LAM	(Written reply)

註 : <u>NOTE</u> :

- # 議員將採用這種語言提出質詢
- # Member will ask the question in this language

Regulation of the illegal sale of pharmaceutical products and medicines

(4) <u>Hon CHAN Kam-lam</u> (Oral reply)

Under the law, all pharmaceutical products must be registered with the Pharmacy and Poisons Board before they are put up for sale in the market. Medicines under Categories 1 and 2 may be dispensed and sold only by Authorized Sellers of Poisons, commonly known as "pharmacies", under the supervision of registered pharmacists, and medicines under Category 1 (i.e. prescription medicines) are required to be sold on a doctor's prescription. Listed Sellers of Poisons, commonly known as "medicine companies", are only allowed to sell medicines under Category 3 (e.g. medicines for common cold and antipyretics). People engaged in retail business of Chinese herbal medicines are required to obtain the relevant licence issued by the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong. It has been reported that recently some shops which are not medicine retailers (e.g. shops selling household and baby products) have been found selling unregistered medicines, some of which contain prescription medicine ingredients such as antibiotics, steroids. In addition, some people sell medicinal herbal packs, weight-loss drugs and psychedelic drugs through Internet social networking platforms. Some people even sell a medicine for rheumatism which is subject to a recall order issued by the authorities and deliver the products to buyers at MTR stations. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) how the authorities monitor the compliance of pharmacies and medicine companies with the relevant legislation at present; whether the authorities instituted any prosecution in the past 12 months against persons after they had been found to have sold or possessed unregistered medicines; if they did, of the number of such cases;
- (2) whether the authorities have taken enforcement actions against the illegal sale of medicines in shops which are not medicine retailers and at random locations; if they have, of the number and details of such cases cracked by the authorities in the past 12 months; and
- (3) how the authorities combat the illegal sale of pharmaceutical products and medicines on the Internet at present, and whether they will review the relevant legislation to curb such activities?