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Centre to set up e-portal for regulating online sale of drugs

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The details of medicines sold or dispensed will be entered in the e-platform and bills will be generated through the system.



All manufacturers, distributors and retailers, interested in selling drugs and medicines online will have to register themselves on an e-portal to be set up soon by the Centre.

This information about the Centre's proposed measure to regulate the online sale of drugs was given by the Maharashtra government to a bench of Chief Justice Manjula Chellur and Justice N M Jamdar.

The state government gave the information during hearing by the court a plea of city resident M Patil, highlighting the malady of easy, online availability of medicines with students buying drugs on strength of fake medical prescriptions.

The high court had earlier taken serious note of the malady and had asked the government as to what steps it proposed to take to tackle it.

Additional government pleader P P Kakade told the court that a public notice had been issued by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in March this year on the need to plug the gaps in sale of drugs, including their online sale.

The petition had raised concerns over the easy availability of drugs and medicines even without a doctor's prescription as stipulated by the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

The Centre in its notice has said medicines included in the Schedule H, H1 and X of the said Act shall be dispensed or sold only on a medical practitioner's prescription.

The details of medicines sold or dispensed will be entered in the e-platform and bills will be generated through the system. The details will include the prescribing doctor's registration number and the name and registration number of the chemist and the quantity supplied.