

Pharmacists protest order on prescription

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Pharmacists are up in arms against the state government's decision directing them not to write prescriptions for patients in the absence of doctors. They have started a series of protests.

Harpreet Singh Thind, district president of the pharmacists union, said that the pharmacists have been prescribing medicines for the past several decades, but no one had ever raised any objection.

"Now, this dictatorial decision will lead to chaos as at several locations, pharmacists have been single-handedly manning dispensaries in the absence of doctors," he said.

State Health Minister Surjit Kumar Jiyani said that the decision has been taken following the directions of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Jiyani said that he was aware of the issues at the grassroots level, adding that the department would try to seek the permission of the court so that the pharmacists could be permitted to prescribe medicines for basic ailments.

Meanwhile, several panchayats have also come forward and passed resolutions exhorting the state government to permit pharmacists to prescribe medicines. — OC

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