



## Colistin Antibiotic

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued an order **prohibiting the manufacture, sale and distribution of Colistin** and its formulations **for food-producing animals**, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements.

- The ban has been imposed under the provisions of the [Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940](#).
- The [Drug Technical Advisory Board \(DTAB\)](#), the government's top advisory body on technical matters related to drugs in the country recommended prohibiting it.
- Colistin is an antibiotic for therapeutic purpose in veterinary. But the drug is highly **misused** in poultry industry as **a growth promoter** for prophylactic purpose.
- Also, colistin is a valuable, **last-resort antibiotic** that saves lives in critical care units but in recent years, there have been patients who have exhibited resistance to the drug.
- This move is likely to reduce the [antimicrobial resistance](#) within the country.
- Awareness programmes need to be conducted for farmers telling them about the dangers of using colistin in feed.
- Since the bulk of Colistin (nearly 95%) is **imported from China**, it would be easy to stop importing it within a short time.
  - China, one of the largest manufacturers of colistin, has banned the use of the same within its boundaries for any producing animals or fish reared for consumption.

[Source: HT](#)

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