

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1592

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001

FAKE MEDICINES .

MOHAMMED SHAHABUDDIN;PRABHUNATH SINGH;RAGHUNATH JHA;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH;RAM PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fake medicines are easily available in the Delhi's market;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to nab fake medicines manufacturers/marketeers;
- (c) if so, the details of fake medicines;
- (d) whether Government have any proposal to make it mandatory for drug manufacturers to print the batch number on the tablets and to pack the same in 'opaque blister packing' to make the job of fake drug manufacturers difficult; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether present laws are sufficient for curbing the sub- standard manufacturing of drugs and marketing of these fake drugs; and (g) if not, the action taken/being taken by the Government to amend the present laws to make it more stringent?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) No, Sir. While fake drugs are not easily available in Delhi's market, there are reports about medicines of questionable quality being available, faking the name of reputed brands.

(b) & (c) Samples of drugs are regularly drawn from the market by the Drugs Inspectors in Delhi. Details of spurious drugs detected in the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and action taken in the matter are given at annex. Delhi Police, in association with the Drugs Control Department of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, have also been organizing raids from time to time and seizing stocks of spurious drugs from those reported to be indulging in illegal trade of fake medicines. Recently, the Delhi Police and officers of the Delhi Drugs Control Department of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, have jointly unearthed and detected an inter-state spurious drug racket clandestinely manufacturing, selling and distributing fake medicines. The Police have arrested persons who were connected with said activities and seized huge stock of drugs from their possessions. About 76 samples of Allopathic drugs including antibiotics, antipyretics and analgesics, Vitamins, anti TB drugs and two samples of Ayurvedic medicines have been recovered during this raid.

(d) & (e) No, Sir. There is no proposal to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. Rule 96 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules prescribes the manner of labeling any drug before it is sold or distributed in the market by the manufacturer. These labeling provisions requires that distinctive Batch no. be recorded and be available for inspection, based on which details of manufacture of the particular batch from which the substance in the container, can be traced.

In view of above provisions, no further amendment is found to be necessary.

(f) Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder, adequate provisions are available for manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs. Stringent punitive penalties are also prescribed under the said Act for manufacture, sale of spurious, adulterated, misbranded and not of standard quality drugs. Since manufacture and sale of spurious medicines is a clandestine activity indulged by anti-social persons, steps are taken by the enforcement authorities of the States to detect and unearth spurious/fake drugs moving the inter-state commerce.

(g) Does not arise in view of the above.

ANNEX

DETAILS OF SAMPLES OF DRUGS TAKEN BY GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI DURING 1999-2000 AND 2000-2001:-

Year	Total no. of Samples drawn	no. of reported spurious	Details of Samples Taken by GNCT	Action
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1999-2000 484 13 Prosecution has been
launched in 12 cases
and 1 case is still
under investigation.

2000-2001 1127 4 Prosecution has been
launched in one
case. Govt. has
initiated steps to
launch prosecution
under the Drugs and
Cosmetics Act, 1940
in the remaining
three cases.