

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4800  
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2002  
PURCHASE OF MEDICINES  
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the present system of procuring medicines in railway hospitals is not transparent and even spurious medicines are procured;
- (b) whether some cases of irregularities in Jodhpur railway hospital have come to the notice of the Government;
- (c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of railway hospitals?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) to (d) : A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4800 BY SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2002 REGARDING PURCHASE OF MEDICINES

(a) to (d) Railways have a transparent and regulated system for procurement of medicines and drugs which are being audited on regular basis. Procedures for procurement of medicines/drugs and related guidelines are elaborately given in Indian Railway Pharmacopoeia. Bulk medicines are procured by the respective Chief Medical Directors for all hospitals and health units under their jurisdiction. However, based on the needs and urgency, at times some medicines which are not available in the hospital are purchased locally from reputed and registered firms. Samples of medicines are subjected to drug analysis in reputed laboratories. There is hardly any chance of procuring spurious drugs.

It has recently been reported that Central Bureau of Investigations have taken up one case against some officers and staff of Jodhpur Railway Hospital about some alleged irregularities in local purchase of medicines. The case is still under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigations and details are awaited.

Adequate checks/mechanisms exist in the system to check irregularities in procurement and distribution of medicines and stores at various levels. They are departmental checks, annual stock verifications and audit/accounts inspections etc. Besides, investigations by Central investigative agencies where deemed necessary. The erring individuals are dealt suitably as per Discipline and Appeal Rules and Criminal Procedure Code provisions under the law of the land.