

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3919
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2004
SPURIOUS DRUGS
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Drugs Industry has suffered huge loss due to flood of spurious drugs in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the loss suffered by the Government during the last three years and current year so far; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check the manufacturing of spurious drugs ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS & MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b): It is not a fact that there is flood of spurious drugs in the country. Manufacture and sale of spurious drugs being mainly a clandestine activity, arriving at specific figures about quantum of loss to drug industry, due to spurious drugs, is not possible.

(c): Under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder, the responsibility for regulating manufacture and sale of drugs including monitoring their quality is vested with the State Governments. The initiatives taken by the Government of India to tackle the problem of spurious drugs is listed in the Statement enclosed.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3919 FOR 24.8.2004 ON SPURIOUS DRUGS

Initiatives taken by the Govt of India to tackle the problem of spurious drugs:

- i) Specific definition of spurious drugs and cosmetics introduced in 1982.
- ii) Enhanced penal provisions upto life imprisonment provided under Sec. 27, amended in 1982.
- iii) Guidelines for focused strategies to check manufacture and distribution of spurious drugs circulated to all Drug Control Authorities.
- iv) Issues concerning alleged sale of spurious drugs taken up by Union Health Minister with State Health Ministers in conference of Central Council of Health & Family Welfare.
- v) Financial assistance provided to states for augmentation of drug testing facilities.
- vi) Matter concerning sale of spurious drugs and initiatives required to be taken by States was taken up by Union Health Minister with all Chief Ministers in October 2002.
- vii) Report of the DGHS Committee on spurious drugs circulated to all State Drugs Controllers with a request to implement the recommendations.
- viii) World Bank assisted Capacity Building Project for augmenting drug testing facilities and training of drug regulatory, quality control officials and industry personnel has been commissioned.
- ix) Annual testing capacity to be raised to 1,00,000 samples as against 36,000 to 38,000 samples.
- x) Special training programme on investigation and legal skills organized for state officials.
- xi) Expert Committee under Dr. Mashelkar set up in January 2003 to examine the extent of problem of spurious drugs in the country. A Bill for enhancing the penalties under Section 27A of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 was introduced in the 13th Lok Sabha, in December 2003.