

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:591

ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007

BAN ON MANUFACTURERS OF SPURIOUS DRUGS

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study in regard to trading of spurious drugs in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ban the manufacturers of spurious drugs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS)

(a) & (b) No Sir, However, 2 pilot exercises have evaluated the extent of counterfeit drugs in the country – one by the office of Deputy Drugs Controller, (DDC (I)), Western Zone and the other is by an independent forum known as SEARPharm on "Extent of spurious (counterfeit) medicines in India" which is still under progress.

In the study conducted by DDC (I) – West Zone, samples were drawn from brands alleged to be counterfeited from the States located in the Western Region. A total of 3246 samples were drawn in the exercise. The results of samples tested revealed 5 as counterfeit and 2 not complying to the standards (counterfeit drugs do comply with standards). The survey carried out by SEARPharm has collected 10743 samples of 56 brands from 15 states. The extent of suspected counterfeiting is 3.1%. The percentage of substandard drugs is 0.3%.

Drugs Inspectors appointed by the State Governments also carry out regular sampling of drugs from various places to assess the quality of drugs moving in the market. As per information available from State Drugs Control Organizations 0.288%, 0.292% and 0.267% of samples were reported to be spurious during the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.

(c) & (d) All manufacturing and sale of drugs is controlled under the various provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act & Rules thereunder. The manufacture of spurious drugs is a clandestine activity generally indulged in by unlicensed manufacturers and when they are detected, action is taken as per law.

A bill has already been introduced in the Parliament to provide stricter penalties, provision for special courts for speedy trial of drug related offences, compounding offences authorizing the Police also to file prosecution for drugs related offences and making all such offences cognizable and non-bailable.