

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1407

ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008

SALE OF SPURIOUS DRUGS

Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

(a) whether as per the report of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHEM), spurious drugs worth Rs.15,000 crore are being sold every year in the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of companies and the persons involved in such acts during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the menace of spurious drugs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) The ASSOCHAM has based its estimate on the decline in sale of drugs by their members who only engaged in manufacturing of drugs. This is not based on any scientific study. In fact, a study of samples of drugs tested all over the country in last 5 years reveals that only about 0.3% to 0.4% of around 40,000 samples per annum fall within the category of spurious drugs. The manufacturing of spurious drugs is a clandestine activity carried out by unlicensed manufacturers which exploit the confidence enjoyed by certain fast selling drugs by making their imitations. The State Drugs Licensing Authorities launch prosecution as and when such cases come to light.

(d) In order to further assess the extent of spurious drugs in the country, a country wide Survey has been initiated by the Ministry of Health, through Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) on the basis of statistical principles provided by Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Hyderabad. Detailed guidelines have been issued to the State Govts. to undertake focused surveillance over possible movement of spurious drugs. Further, the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2005, which contained provision for making the penal provisions in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 more stringent has been passed by the Parliament in its current Monsoon Session, 2008. It provides stricter penalties for offences relating to spurious and sub standard drugs, provision for designated courts for speedy trial of drug related offences, compounding of offences, authorizing police to file prosecutions in drug related offences and making offences under the Drug and Cosmetics Act cognizable and non-bailable. The amended provision will make the law deterrent to the offenders involved in the manufacture or sale of spurious drugs.