

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3557

ANSWERED ON:16.04.2010

SPURIOUS DRUGS IN RURAL AREAS

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

- (a) whether there has been shortage of experts to check the sale of spurious and substandard drugs in the country and the patients in rural areas are more affected because of sinister alliance between the doctors and drug manufacturing companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken in this regard;
- (c) whether Medical Council of India (MCI) has submitted a detailed proposal to the Government in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details and the action taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b): No. The Drugs Control authorities appointed by the State Governments in each state monitor the quality of drugs moving in the market through surveillance and drawing of samples from the suspected outlets and getting them tested at the Government Drugs Testing Laboratory irrespective of the fact whether such outlet are in rural or urban areas. Action as provided under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act is taken where the samples are declared as not of standard quality. In case of reports of spurious drugs raids are conducted to apprehend culprits red handed for taking action against them. Manufacture of spurious drugs being an undercover activity, the problem is attended to by continuous surveillance by the State Drugs Control Organizations and in active co-operation from the law and order enforcement machinery in the States and other stakeholders like drug manufacturers associations and NGOs.

The Central Government has taken following measures to check the movement of spurious drugs in the country.

(i) The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 has been amended by the Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008 whereby stringent penalties for manufacture of spurious and adulterated drugs have been provided. Certain offences have been made cognizable and non-bailable. Guidelines have been issued to the State Drug Controllers for taking action on samples of drugs declared spurious or not of standard quality in the light of enhanced penalties under the Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008. The guidelines are available on the web site of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) - [www.cdsc.nic.in](http://www.cdsc.nic.in).

(ii) A Whistle Blower Policy has been announced by the Government to encourage vigilant public participation in the detection of movement of spurious drugs in the country. As per this policy, a scheme has been formulated whereby the informers would be suitably rewarded for providing concrete information in respect of movement of spurious drugs to the regulatory authorities. Detailed information on the scheme is available on the web site of the CDSCO.

(c) & (d): The Indian Medical Council (Professional conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 were amended by Medical Council of India with the prior approval of Government of India by inserting a new Clause 6.8 which states that a medical practitioner shall not endorse any drug or product of the industry publically.