

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:403

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2010

DEATHS DUE TO SPURIOUS DRUGS

Patel Shri Bal Kumar;Ramasubbu Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has expressed concern over the deaths of persons caused by the spurious, expired and substandard drugs in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such deaths reported during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the efforts made by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to check to menace of spurious, expired and substandard drugs in the country and to provide harsher punishments to those found guilty;
- (d) whether the Government has sanctioned additional posts in addition to the contractual employees in the office of CDSCO for strengthening vigilance over the spurious drugs and also for ensuring regulatory compliance by the drug manufacturers;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for timely payment to the contractual staff in CDSCO?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.403 FOR 23-04-2010

As per information available from the State Drug Licensing Authorities, four deaths on account of spurious drugs were reported in Maharashtra in December, 2007.

A number of steps have been taken by the Government of India and Central Drugs Standards Control Organization (CDSCO) to check the menace of spurious and sub standard drugs in the country that include the following:

1. An overall enhancement of penalties;
2. Introduction of the Whistle Blower Scheme under which informants are rewarded;
3. Amendment of Schedule M to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, pertaining to Good Manufacturing Practices to ensure that drugs manufactured are of standard quality;

Government has sanctioned 216 posts out of which 25 posts are filled, 33 are in the process of being filled and 158 are to be filled through the UPSC.

The contractual staff who have been appointed for a short duration are being paid regularly. However, the current system is being further streamlined.