GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:555
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009
FAKE FOREIGN DRUGS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has confiscated any foreign spurious/fake drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any investigation in the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; (e the action initiated/proposed to be initiated against officials responsible for such incidents; and

(f) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such activities?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): During the recent past, three cases of import of bulk drugs from unregistered source originating from China were detected at Cehnnai sea port by the officers of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).The following bulk drugs were not released from Chennai Port:

1. Roxithromycin-500 Kgs

2. Progesterone-400 Kgs

3. Cimetidine-2000Kgs

(c)&(d): The Customs authorities have already been requested for absolute confiscation and prosecution in these cases under the Customs Act.

(e): The import of bulk drugs from unregistered source has not been allowed by the officials of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization.

(f): The measures to check the menace of spurious drugs are given below:

1. The Drugs and Cosmetic Act has been amended vide Gazette notification dated December,2008 to incrase the penalty and punishment of spurious drugs manufacturing.

2. A Committee has been formed in 39th Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) to look into the problems of spurious drugs in the country.

3. In order to assess the extent of spurious drugs in the country, a country wide Survey has been undertaken by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare through Central Drugs Standard Control Organization(CDSCO).

4. Under the Capacity Building Project through World Bank, assistance has been provided to upg rade testing facilities and to establish new drug testing laboratories so as to enhance the capacity of the laboratories to test large number of samples.Under this project 23 States and 6 Central Drugs Laboratories have been strengthened through renovations, extensions and equipments.

5. Schedule M to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, pertaining to Good Manufacturing Practices was amended to make it at par with the International standards and it is mandatory for the manufacturers of drugs to comply with the requirements of this Schedule for quality control of the drugs manufactured by them.

6. Detailed guidelines have been issued to the State Governments to undertake focused surveillance over possible movement of spurious drugs.