

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1091

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2011

SPURIOUS AND EXPIRED DRUGS

Bavalia Shri Kuvarjibhai Mohanbhai;Bhujbal Shri Sameer ;Dashmunsi Deepa ;Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao ;Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Kishor Shri Kamal ;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Lal Shri Kirodi ;Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao;Nirupam Shri Sanjay Brijkishorilal ;Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

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

(a) whether a number of spurious, substandard and expired drugs have been recovered across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the value of drugs seized and the action taken against the persons involved during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring new technologies, strengthen the drug regulatory mechanism alongwith the drug testing laboratories and also devise fast track judicial system to administer severe punishment to the persons found involved in such activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has set up any task force and issued directions/ guidelines to tackle the growing menace of such drugs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/proposed to raise the awareness of cosumers as well as pharmacists about spurious, substandard and expired drugs in the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) & (b): Yes, cases of manufacture and sale of spurious, substandard drugs have been detected by the State Drugs Control Authorities. The detail of information as made available by the State Drug Controllers for spurious/ substandard drugs is at Annexure A and for expired drugs is at Annexure B.

(c) & d): Yes. Strengthening of drug regulatory system by bringing in new technologies is an on-going process. Moreover, the Central Government has taken initiative to strengthen manpower in the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation to cope with the increasing workload. The posts are in the process of being filled up. Drugs & Cosmetics Act was amended in 2008 for making a provision for setting up of special courts for trial of cases related to the offences under the said Act. States/UT's of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Tripura, Lakshadweep, Arunachal Pradesh, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Kerala have set up designated special courts.

(e) & ( f): To tackle the growing menace of spurious, sub-standard and expired drugs, several steps have been taken:

1. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 was amended under Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Act 2008. Under this Act, stringent penalties for manufacture of spurious and adulterated drugs were provided. Certain offences were made cognizable and non-bailable.

2. Whistle Blower Scheme has been announced by Government of India to encourage vigilant public participation in the detection of movement of spurious drugs in the country. The details of policy are available at the website of CDSCO ([www.cdsco.nic.in](http://www.cdsco.nic.in)).

3. The inspectorate staff have been instructed to keep vigil and draw samples of drugs for testing/analysis to monitor the quality of drugs moving in the country.

4. State Drugs Control authorities, from time to time, place advertisements in the press for making consumers aware of the steps which are required to be followed to ensure that they buy drugs against cash memo only.