

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3999
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2011
SUPPLY OF AYURVEDIC MEDICINES
Saroj Shri Tufani

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding supply of substandard Ayurvedic medicines to the CGHS Ayurvedic dispensaries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken by the Government against the defaulters in the matter; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to ensure supply of quality Ayurvedic medicines to the CGHS Ayurvedic dispensaries by the suppliers/ manufacturers?

Answer

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

- (a): Two complaints were received regarding supply of substandard Ayurvedic Medicines to CGHS Ayurvedic dispensaries in Delhi:
- (1) Complaint by Shri J.P. Sharma received from Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) regarding supply of suprious drugs by the CGHS dispensary at North Avenue; and
- (2) Complaint/suggestions made by Mr. Vijay Rayu through e-mail regarding procurement of substandard medicines by AMSD.
- (b) to (c): (1) As per information furnished by the CGHS Ayurvedic dispensary at North Avenue, Delhi, Shri J. P. Sharma, the complainant, was issued "Badam Tail" (Almond Oil) from batch No. 244 with manufacturing date of October, 2010, by local indenting through the authorized local chemist. However, in the complaint filed by Shri Sharma, he submitted a package of "Almond Oil" with batch No. B-147 with December, 2010 as the date of manufacturing. Ayurvedic Medical Stores Depot, CGHS wrote twice to Shri Sharma about the complaint and both the letters were returned undelivered to the CGHS. Hence, it is clear that the complaint of Shri Sharma was a frivolous and pseudonymous one.
- (2) Shri Rayu and alleged that
- (i) all firms having registration certificates are illegal and supply only substandard medicines
- (ii) majority of companies manufacturing quality drugs have opted out of CGHS and the others are on their way out and that medicines not having acceptance in the market find their way to CGHS.
- CGHS procures generic medicines from Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Ramanager which has been setup for producing medicines for CGHS beneficiaries. Proprietary medicines are procured from the manufacturer/ distributor directly after the discount to be offered on the medicines is settled in advances. For any non-proprietary medicines not being manufactured by the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, CGHS floats tenders at regular intervals of time.
- A formulary of medicines is prepared by Committee of experts in the field of Ayush only in respect of those medicines which are not produced by IMPCL. After the formulary of medicines is decided, the supplier is selected by floating an open tender. The tender document specifies the quality and quantity of drugs expected to be delivered to CGHS.
- The firms selected for supply of medicines are required to give samples, which are tested for quality. Only if the sample meets the quality, the selected firm is requested to supply the medicines as per requirement. Hence, it is incorrect to say that sub-standard medicines are supplied to CGHS.
- (c):
- (i) Firms supplying ayush medicines have now been directed to mention batch-wise lab report of each and every batch supplied to CGHS;
- (ii) Random Checking of medicines is done by obtaining report from Government labs; and
- (iii) Matching of the supplies with the control sample retained in CGHS is done and lab reports are submitted at the time of tendering.