GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3769
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2011
SUPPLY OF FAKE/SUBSTANDARD DRUGS
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

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

(a) the guidelines proposed/formulated by the Government for centralised drug procurement in order to ensure supply of medicir.es at the genuine and affordable cost under various healthcare programmes;

(b) the mechanism put in place by the Government to check quality, genuineness and originality of medicines supplied to Government hospitals and dispensaries meant for patients;

(c) the cases of supply/issue of fake or substandard medicines to the hospitals including Army hospitals, dispensaries and patients reported during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith the action taken thereon, State/UT-wise;

(d) the estimated quantity of medicines in the market which do not adhere to standard quantity;

(e) whether the sub-group constituted to address the menace of spurious drugs, has since submitted its report to the Government; and

(f) if so, the details of the recommendations made alongwith the follow up action taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a): The Central Government in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of Health & Family Welfare procures drugs, medicines and vaccines for RCH, TB, Malaria, Family Welfare and Universal Immunization Programme through a rigorous and transparent competitive bidding process. These medicines and vaccines, so procured, aie distributed to various States. For centralized procurement, it has been decided to set up Centralized Procurement Agency under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 for procuring and distributing quality medicines, vaccines, contraceptives, medical equipment and other medical supplies to the State/Union Territory Governments under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

(b): Before offering stores for inspection, the manufacturers are required to get the stores tested in their own laboratory. Again, before dispatch of the stores to the consignees, all the batches are tested by Central Government approved laboratories which are accredited with National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). In cose a batch fails quality control test, the manufacturer is required to replace it.

(c): The requisite information about the hospitals of States/ Union Territories is not maintained by the Central Government. A statement containing the details of medicines found sub-standard found in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi is annexed. The Ministry of Defence has denied any case of supply / issue of fake or substandard medicines in Army Hospitals.

(d): As per a countrywide survey conducted by the Government in 2009 to assess the extent of spurious drugs in the country, out of 24,136 samples collected for analysis, only 0.046% samples were found spurious. Further, as per line available information received from State Drug Controllers, the drug samples tested all over the country during four years from 2007-2008 to 2010-2011 reveal that only about 0.25% of around 43,000 samples per annum have been found to be spurious / adulterated.

(e) & (f): The sub-group has submitted its report to the Task Force on the subject of spurious drugs. The subgroup has, inter-alia, made recommendation for strengthening of drug regulatory mechanism both at the Centre and in the States.