

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1837

ANSWERED ON:23.03.2012

SPURIOUS AND SUBSTANDARD DRUGS

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

- (a) whether sale and marketing of spurious and substandard drugs including ayurvedic/homoeopathic drugs and deaths therefrom has been reported 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 has estimated the extent of circulation of spurious and sub-standard drugs in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of raids conducted, samples tested and those declared spurious and substandard during the said period, State/UTwise; and
- (e) the measures taken/proposed by the Government to overcome the menace of spurious and substandard drugs in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): As regards the ayurvedic / homoeopathic drugs, the Department of AYUSH has denied any report of deaths therefrom. In respect of Allopathic drugs, the Drugs Controller General (India) has also denied any report of deaths therefrom. Further, manufacture and sale of spurious drugs and sub-standard is a clandestine activity. Such cases are detected through constant surveillance and drawing up of samples of drugs for test. Statements A to E containing the State/UT wise details of the raids conducted by the State Drugs Control Authorities, samples tested, samples declared spurious and sub-standard, value of drugs seized and the action taken in such cases during the last three years and the current year are annexed.

A survey to assess the extent of spurious drugs in the country was conducted in the year 2009 by the Ministry of Health, through Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) on the basis of statistical principles provided by Indian Statistical Institute

(ISI), Hyderabad. The survey has revealed that the extent of drugs found spurious was 0.046% only.

(e): The Government has taken following steps to check the menace of Spurious/Sub standard Drugs.

1. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 has been amended by the Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Act 2008 whereby stringent penalties for manufacture of spurious and adulterated drugs have been provided. Certain offences have been made cognizable and non-bailable.

2. Whistle Blower Policy has been announced by Government of India to encourage vigilant public participation in the detection of movement of spurious drugs in the country. Under this policy the informers are suitably rewarded for providing concrete information in respect of movement of spurious drugs to the regulatory authorities. The details of the policy are available at the website of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) ([www.cdsco.nic.in](http://www.cdsco.nic.in)).

3. Guidelines for taking action on samples of drugs declared spurious or not of standard quality in the light of enhanced penalties under the Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008 were forwarded to the State Drugs Controllers for implementation. The guidelines are available on the web site of CDSCO ([www.cdsco.nic.in](http://www.cdsco.nic.in)).