

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2140

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012

SPURIOUS AND SUBSTANDARD DRUGS

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to circulation of a large number of spurious and substandard drugs across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the percentage of drugs in circulation estimated to be spurious and substandard in the country;
- (d) the number of raids conducted along with the number of such cases detected and action taken against the offenders during each of the last three years and the current year so far, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to tackle the rising menace of spurious drugs and award of stringent punishment to the offenders?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): There are no reports of circulation of large number of spurious and sub-standard drugs across the country. Isolated cases are detected in different states through surveillance and sampling of suspected drugs. On the basis of the testing of samples, the percentage of spurious drugs has been found to be only 0.2% to 0.3% and that of sub-standard drugs 4.7% of the suspected drug samples. A Statement containing the details of raids conducted along with the number of such cases detected and action taken against the offenders during the years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 State/UT wise annexed.

(e): The Government has taken following measures to check the problem of Spurious / Sub-standard Drugs.

1. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 has been amended by the Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Act 2008 providing for stringent penalties for manufacture of spurious and adulterated drugs. Certain offences have also been made cognizable and non-bailable.
2. The guidelines have been framed 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.
3. The Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008 also provided for setting up of designated courts for speedy trial of drug related offences. 14 States / Union Territories have already set up such Courts.
4. A Whistle Blower Scheme has been initiated by the Government to encourage vigilant public participation in the detection of movement of spurious drugs in the country. The scheme provides for suitably rewarding the informers for providing concrete information in respect of movement of spurious drugs.
5. The inspectorate staff has been instructed to keep vigil and draw samples of drugs for test and analysis to monitor the quality of drugs moving in the country.