

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3437  
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012  
QUALITY OF MALARIA DRUGS  
Singh Shri Dushyant

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of a study which has found around 7% of the drugs tested in India to be either fake or of poor quality;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether poor quality anti-malaria drugs has led to drug resistance and inadequate treatment and according to the recent World Malaria Report 2011, over 70% of India's population face the risk of malaria infection;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken/ proposed by the Government to provide efficacious high quality drugs to the malaria infected people in order to bring down morbidity and mortality attributable to malaria?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Yes. The report has been published in the 'Health issues-International Policy network' by Roger Bate et al. under the heading "A safe medicines chest for the world. Preventing substandard products from tainting India's pharmaceuticals". However, the drug samples tested all over the country by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) in last three years reveals that on an average only 4.7 % of suspected samples are declared as not of standard quality.

(c) & (d): Strict quality control is maintained for procurement and distribution of antimalarials by way of pre- and post- despatch drug testing through National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (NABL) certified laboratories. Therapeutic efficacy studies, undertaken by National Institute of Malaria Research (NIMR) till date do not suggest any significant drug resistance to the antimalarials prescribed under the National Drug Policy 2010 under the country programme.

(e): The following corrective measures are taken by the Government to provide efficacious high quality drugs to the malaria infected people in order to bring down morbidity and mortality attributable to malaria:

1. Therapeutic efficacy studies are conducted with the help of NIMR to monitor the effectiveness of anti-malaria drugs used under the programme.
2. Pharmaco-vigilance studies are also conducted with the help of NIMR to monitor the side effects of anti-malarial drugs.
3. Pre and post dispatch quality assurance is done for all the drugs procured by the Government of India.