

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4429

ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013

PROCUREMENT OF MEDICINES FOR ARMED FORCES

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain medicines for the Armed forces have been procured in such a quantity that their use before the expiry date is not possible;
- (b) if so, the details of such medicines and the expenditure incurred on their procurement;
- (c) whether any action has been taken / being taken against the officers responsible for such procurements; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (d): The procurement of medicines is carried out by the Armed Forces Medical Stores Depots (AFMSDs), Direct Demanding Officers (DDOs) [Six Command Hospitals & Army Hospital (R&R)] and service hospitals in addition to central procurement as per Rate Contract policy based on the requirement. The office of Comptroller & Audit General of India in its Report No.18 of 2012-13 (Performance Audit) have pointed out that there was overstocking of medicines in 2010-11 in two Armed Forces Medical Stores Depots and some Armed Forces hospitals. As per the terms and conditions which are mentioned in Supply Orders & Rate Contracts, suppliers are bound to replace the unconsumed stock / expired medicines.

In respect of Armed Forces Medical Stores Depot, Lucknow, a review was carried out by the internal Audit Authorities in 2005-06 and it detected that certain medicines procured during 1986-2001 by the Depot, had expired. The details of such medicines are indicated in the Annexure. The cost of the expired medical stores was Rs.2,71,98,041.00. A Court of Inquiry was conducted in the matter. The report of the Court of Inquiry is under consideration of the Government.