

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2438

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2016

Substandard Drugs

Adsul Shri Anandrao ;Kaswan Shri Rahul;Patil Shri Shivaji Adhalrao;Swami Maharaj Dr. Sakshi;Udasi Shri Shivkumar
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any study to assess the number of substandard drugs in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether substandard drugs work less effectively, causing disease to run a longer course and can even require a new prescription during treatment;
- (d) if so, whether substandard drugs has serious implications on health in a country where 58.2 per cent of the total health expenditure is on out of pocket cost burden on people;
- (e) whether samples of reputed drug companies has failed in Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) tests for ingredients, dissolution, sterility, toxicity among others; and
- (f) if so, the action taken by the Union Government against the manufacturers of substandard medicines?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

- (a) & (b): In order to determine the extent of 'Spurious and Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) Drugs', over 47,000 samples of drugs have been picked up in a nationwide survey under-taken in 2015.
- (c) & (d): Drugs not conforming to prescribed standards may be less effective or even harmful and may pose health risks as well as result in enhancing the burden on healthcare.
- (e) & (f): Results of the findings of the survey have not been compiled as yet. However, samples of some manufacturers have been found to be of 'NSQ'. Action in terms of the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is undertaken in cases where legal samples drawn do not meet the prescribed standards.