Spurious drugs of cancer

3735. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a racket is involved in manufacturing and selling of fake and spurious cancer drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to check it; and

(c) whether there is any permanent mechanism to prevent such illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir. As per the information received from the different Zones of the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO), the central drugs regulatory body in the country, no racket has been found in manufacturing and selling of fake and spurious cancer drugs in the country.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) Though the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 has enough deterrent provisions, the Government has taken additional measures from time to time to check the menace of spurious drugs. Recently, to assess the extent of spurious drugs in the country, a country wide Survey has been undertaken by the Ministry of Health, through CDSCO, on the basis of statistical principles provided by Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Hyderabad, Under this survey around 24,300 samples of 61 brands of drugs belonging to 9 therapeutic categories of 30 manufacturers from 100 different Pharmacy outlets located in each stratum *viz.* Metros, big cities, district, towns and villages in different regions of the country have been collected. This would help in identifying geographical areas where spurious drugs are available so that a focused monitoring is done by the concerned authorities in these areas for eliminating the menace of spurious drugs. Other measures taken to check the menace of spurious drugs are as follows:-

1. The Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act 2008 has been passed by the Parliament on 5th December 2008 for providing stringent penalties for offences relating to spurious and sub-standard drugs and making offences under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act cognizable and non-bailable, etc.

2. In the 39th meeting of Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC), a statutory body of drug regulators of all States/UTs constituted under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, held on 10th December, 2008, the States were requested to play pro-active role in assessing the extent of spurious drugs in the country.

3. In the 40th meeting of DCC held on 29.6.2009, guidelines for taking action on samples of drugs declared spurious or not of standard quality in the light of enhanced penalties under the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008 were adopted for the purpose of uniform implementation of the Drugs and Cosmetic Act in the country. The guidelines have also been placed on the web site of CDSCO.

4. Testing facilities at Central and State laboratories have been upgraded and new drug testing laboratories have also been established so as to enhance the capacity of the laboratories to test large number of samples. Under a Capacity Building Project, 23 States and 6 Central Drug laboratories have been strengthened through renovations, extensions and provided with State of art equipments.

5. Schedule M to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, pertaining to Good Manufacturing Practices was amended in 2001 to make it mandatory, and at par with the international standards, for the manufacturers of drugs to comply with the requirements of this Schedule for quality control of the drugs manufactured by them. The amended Schedule M was made applicable to existing manufacturers from 1st July 2005.

6. Specific training programme for regulatory officials of State Government on logistics of intelligence work, prosecutions, etc. has been conducted.

7. Pharma industry and trade has been requested to fight menace of spurious drugs as a shared responsibility. This would help in successfully detecting the cases of spurious drugs by regulatory authorities.

8. A meeting with representative of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Commissioner Customs and all port officers has been held to deliberate on modalities for absolute confiscation and prosecutions in cases of import of spurious drugs.

9. Pharmaceutical Zones, dedicated areas for handling import and export of drugs are being developed at Port offices.

10. A whistle blower policy is being formulated whereby rewards would be given to the informers for detection of spurious drugs.

Food and medical facilities to undernourished population

3736. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that malnutrition is India's crucial problem and about 230 million people in the country are undernourished suffering from diseases and ill health;

(b) whether Government knows the startling fact that the undernourished people in India constitute 27 per cent of the world's undernourished population; and

(c) if so, what measures are being taken to provide adequate nutritious food and medical facilities to the undernourished people?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS-III) – 2005-06, about 42.5% children under 5 years, 36% women in the age group 15-49 years and 34% men in the age group 15-49 years are undernourished in the country.