

Action taken against spurious medicine traders

†*76. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 20 percent medicines, which are sold in the market are spurious and a total of four thousand crores of rupees turnover of such medicines is taking place;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the action Government have taken against the traders of spurious drugs;

(d) the number of persons found involved in this kind of crime alongwith the action taken against them; and

(e) the details of the criminals involved in this crime, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (e) The manufacture of spurious drugs is a clandestine activity generally indulged in by unlicensed manufacturers. It is, therefore, difficult to assess the actual quantum of spurious drugs sold in the country. The figures quoted by media generally range from 10 to 25 percent. These facts are, however, not substantiated by them for their authenticity. A study of the samples of drugs tested all over the country in last 3-4 years reveal about 0.2 to 0.3 percent of the around 36000 samples drawn, fall under the category of spurious drugs. To estimate the price value of the turnover of such medicines may not be feasible as the prices of drugs vary appreciably from product to product.

The Government is aware of the problem and had constituted expert committees from time to time to find ways and means to combat the

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menace of spurious drugs. The matter was also deliberated by an Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General and Secretary, CSIR, which was set up in 2003 for a comprehensive review of the drug regulatory system in the country including the extent of problem of spurious drugs and remedial measures to deal with this problem effectively. The major amendments proposed relate to enhancement of penalties prescribed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, provision of special courts for speedy trial of drug related offences, compounding of offences, authorizing the police also to file prosecution for drug related offences and making all drug related offences cognizable and non-bailable. All this is expected to act as a strong deterrent for manufacturers of counterfeit drugs. This Ministry has already initiated the process of amending the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, to provide for stricter penalties, in pursuance of the recommendations of the Mashelkar Committee. Government of India has also launched a 5-year World Bank aided Capacity Building Project for Food Safety and Quality Control of Drugs with a total project cost of Rs. 354.25 crores. Extensive assistance is being provided to State Governments to augment their drug testing facility by way of equipments, manpower, training and civil works under the Project and a strong IEC campaign for the education of the consumers has also been initiated.

A statement showing the number of samples tested, number of samples declared not of standard quality, number of samples declared spurious, number of prosecutions launched, number of cases decided, number of persons arrested and approximate value of drugs seized during 2004-2005 as per information received from State Licensing Authorities is annexed. (See below).

Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, prosecutions are launched against the offenders in the case of detection of spurious drugs by the concerned Drugs Regulatory Authorities of the respective States/UTs after due investigations.

Statement

No. of Samples tested, no. of samples declared not of standard quality, no of samples declared spurious, no. of prosecution launched, no. of cases decided, no. of persons arrested and approximate value of drugs seized during 2004-05 as per the feed back available from the States.

SI, No	State/UTs	No. -of samples tested	No. of samples declared not of standard quality	No. of samples declared spurious	No. of prosecution launched	No. of cases decided	No. of persons arrested	Approximate value of drugs seized
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4893	112	05	73	29	Nil	Rs. 15,00,000/-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	219	02	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
3.	Assam	433	31	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
4.	Bihar	1097	—	Nil	118	Nil	—	—
5.	Goa	172	24	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
6.	Gujarat	3810	673	04	14	03	Nil	Rs. 1,13,650/-
7.	Haryana	3023	159	01	14	22	—	—
8.	H.P.	834	06	01	02	01	02	Nil
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	664	40	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Rs. 67,887/-
10.	Karnataka	3670	205	08	09	Nil	01	—
11.	Kerala	4716	496	01	01	Nil	—	Rs. 50,000/-
12.	MP	5662	168	23	34	04	—	Rs. 3,44,120/-
13.	Maharashtra	5386	532	02	11	17	—	—
14.	Manipur							
15.	Meghalaya	204	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Mizoram	25	04	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Nagaland	71	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
18	Orissa	1916	165	02	01	01	iNil	—
19	Punjab	2140	216	13	06	01	Nil	Rs. 21,56,745/-
20	Rajasthan	897	112	07	28	24	Nil	Rs. 37,000/-
21	Sikkim	14	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
22	Tamil Nadu	4793	420	47	33	Nil	Nil	Nil
23	Tripura	467	04	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Rs. 30,000/-
24	U.P.	986	156	07	03	02	06	Rs. 2,25,000/-
25	West Bengal	1409	84	20	06	01	09	Rs. 9,52,000/-
26	Pondicherry	19	—	—	Nil	—	—	—
27	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
28	Chandigarh	226	06	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
29	Delhi	1109	53	03	06	Nil	—	Nil
30	≡	06	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
31	Daman & Diu	51	03	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
32	Lakshadweep							
33	Chhattisgarh							
34	Jharkhand	330	05	Nil	03	Nil	04	Rs. 1,50,000/-
35	Uttaranchal	45	03	Nil	11	Nil	01	Rs. 20,00,000/-
Total:		49,287	3695	144	373	105	23	