

Whistle blower policy for the pharmaceutical sector

2514. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed the whistle blower policy in an attempt to tackle the menace of fake life saving medicines as these spurious drugs not only affect the health of the citizens but also the prestige of the country's pharmaceutical trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints received so far and the raids conducted in this connection during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to put strong penalty for those engaged in the illegal practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) Government initiated a whistle blower scheme in 2009 to encourage vigilant public participation in the detection of movement of spurious drugs in the country. Under this scheme the informers would be suitably rewarded for providing concrete information in respect of movement of spurious drugs to the regulatory authorities. The details of the scheme are posted on the Web-site of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) www.cdscop.nic.in.

(c) So far 30 complaints have been received and 5 raids have been conducted.

(d) The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 has been amended under Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Act 2008, whereby more stringent penalties for manufacture and trade of spurious and adulterated drugs have been provided. Certain offences have been made cognizable and non-bailable.

Effect of use of mobile phone on health

2515. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: