

12.00 NOON**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS****Use of spurious drugs in government hospitals**

*1. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spurious drugs have been found to be in use for patients in certain Government hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the enormity of this menace;

(c) whether Government has been buying such fake drugs from companies which have either been banned or blacklisted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia*, indicating the action plan of Government to control this menace?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Details as compiled by Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on the basis of the information provided by various States, are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) Health is a State subject and information regarding procurement of medicines by the State Government and their hospitals is not maintained centrally. However, as far as Institutions/Hospitals such as All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, (JIPMER), Puducherry and three Central Government Hospitals, in Delhi namely, Safdarjung hospital, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College and associated hospitals are concerned, there has been no report regarding the purchase of fake drugs from companies which have either been banned or blacklisted.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to check Spurious/Sub-Standard Drugs in the Country include:

- Amending the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 by the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008 to provide for more stringent penalties for manufacture and trade of spurious and adulterated drugs.

- Making provisions in the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008 for setting up of special designated courts for speedy disposal of cases to deal with the cases of offences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
- Uploading the 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 on the Website of CDSCO for purpose of uniform implementation of Drugs and Cosmetics Act in the country.
- Initiation of Whistle Blower Scheme to encourage vigilant Public Participation in the detection of Movement of spurious drugs in the country.
- Providing assistance for upgrading of testing facilities and establishing new drug testing laboratories under the Capacity Building project through World Bank, so as to enhance the capacity of the laboratories to test large number of samples.
- Overseas inspection of drug manufacturing sites to ensure quality of imported bulk drugs.
- Amendment of Schedule M to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, Pertaining to Good Manufacturing Practices in 2001 to make it at par with the international standards. It is mandatory for the manufacturers of drugs to comply with requirements of this schedule for quality control of the drugs manufactured by them.
- Introduction of Good Laboratory Practices

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of States	The number of cases of Spurious Drugs in Government Hospital in various parts of the country which have come to the notice of Government	Action taken
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	Nil	Nil
4.	Bihar	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4
5. Goa		Nil	Nil
6. Gujarat		Nil	Nil
7. Haryana		Nil	Nil
8. Himachal Pradesh		Nil	Nil
9. Jammu and Kashmir	4 samples during last five years		The cases are sub-judice.
10. Karnataka		28	With respect to said spurious drugs cases are filed against the accused in the Hon'ble courts.
11. Kerala		Nil	Nil
12. Madhya Pradesh		Nil	Nil
13. Maharashtra		Nil	Nil
14. Manipur		Nil	NA
15. Meghalaya		Nil	Nil
16. Mizoram		Nil	Nil
17. Nagaland		Data awaited	
18. Odisha		Nil	Nil
19. Punjab		Nil	Nil
20. Rajasthan		Nil	Nil
21. Sikkim		Nil	Nil
22. Tamil Nadu	2 cases in the year 2013-14 and one case in the year 2014-15		Prosecution has been launched for the cases reported in 2013-14 and they are under trial in court. Prosecution permission has been accorded for the case reported in the year 2014-15 and the case is to be filed before the court.

1	2	3	4
23.	Tripura	2 cases	The case is now under trial.
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1 case reported in the year 2013-14	Instructions have been issued to the Inspector to file the prosecution.
25.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil
26.	Puducherry	Nil	Nil
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil
28.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil
29.	Delhi	Data awaited	
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Data awaited	
31.	Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil
32.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil
33.	Chhattisgarh	02 cases	Investigation has been launched.
34.	Jharkhand	01	Investigation has been launched.
35.	Uttarakhand	Nil	Nil
36.	Telangana	Data awaited	

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 1. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, I have to raise one point. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't display banners. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question no. 1. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Parida, yes please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: It is our agony, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Sir, a serious question ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the question be answered first and then ask your supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, we seek your help. *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, we seek your help. *...(Interruptions)...* This House unanimously passed that law. *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, we are in distress. *...(Interruptions)...* We seek your protection, Sir. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Please allow his question to be answered. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Sir, the answer which has been given by the hon. Minister is not satisfactory. It is not fulfilling the *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: The people of Andhra Pradesh want these provisions *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow his question to be answered. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Sir, my supplementary question is that the Government, I feel from the answers of the hon. Minister, is not quite aware of the serious situation prevailing in the country because of supply of spurious medicines for different diseases. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, those provisions need to be implemented. *...(Interruptions)...* We seek your interference. *...(Interruptions)...* We seek your protection, Sir. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: It has appeared in the Press and also in the electronic media from time to time that so many deaths are taking place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: My question is that the Government is not aware. I am showing the newspaper cutting *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: We seek your interference in implementing the provisions of the Bill. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: It has appeared in this paper that yesterday...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ask the question, please. Don't make a speech.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: In the National Capital Region, in Gurgaon, a person was arrested by the police. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, the people of Andhra Pradesh *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: The man was supplying the spurious medicines.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: I want to know whether the Minister has this in his knowledge and what steps he is taking to stop this practice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, the Government has not been ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Sir, the question is related to the hospitals supplying the medicines and the answer is very elaborative where we have talked about the Central Government hospitals and the State Government hospitals. Now, the hon. Member is raising an issue related to once incident. I assure the hon. Member that if he gives it in writing, we will get it examined and action will be taken accordingly. That is what I can say.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, the Minister of Health ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no; don't shout.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, the Minister should say what is the ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No banners please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. Thank you very much.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, said that the State Government should look after this practice of supply of spurious medicines. I am appealing to the Central Government that they should take initiative to inquire throughout the country how much spurious medicines are produced in this country and supplied to the patients who are dying. The Central Government should take the initiative to inquire into this matter, what is taking place in other States.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Sir, certainly, the Central Government is aware of it. There was this Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Then, there was the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 2008. In the 2008 Act, a lot of new initiatives were taken and accordingly, it was decided that we would strengthen the system relating to the checking of the drugs. First of all, in this matter, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 2008 provided more stringent penalties for the manufacturing and trade of spurious and adulterated drugs. This was one step which was taken. Another step taken was that special designated courts were set up for speedy disposal of cases to deal with such cases. Then, the whole procedure was also to be uploaded about the samples of the drugs, and accordingly, it was also decided to provide assistance from the Central Government for upgrading of the testing facilities and establishing new drug testing laboratories under the Capacity Building Project. All this has been done and

this is a continuous process, which is being done. At the same time, the Government of India did a survey, because there were reports about it, and the survey was done throughout the length and breadth of the country; 24,136 samples were taken of 62 brands of drugs belonging to 9 categories of manufacturers from 100 different outlets from all different regions. After due examination, 0.046 per cent were found to be spurious. But, at the same time, the Government is aware and I would assure the Member, and all the other Members too, that we are increasing our capacity so that the testing facilities are made more meaningful and see to it that spurious drugs are brought under control. That is what I can assure you.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: माननीय सभापति महोदय, आपको इस बात की जानकारी है ही कि छत्तीसगढ़ के परिवार नियोजन कैम्प के अंतर्गत spurious drugs देने की वजह से कई महिलाओं की मृत्यु हुई और कानून के अंतर्गत इसकी जांच भी चल रही है।

माननीय सभापति महोदय, देश में जब से NRHM में अधिक धनराशि देने का प्रस्ताव किया गया है, हर राज्य के अन्दर इस तरह की दवाइयों की खरीद करने का एक रैकेट चला हुआ है।

मेरा आपसे अनुरोध है, हालांकि यह राज्य का विषय है, केंद्र सरकार को इस बारे में विचार करना चाहिए कि जितनी भी जैनेरिक ड्रग्स हैं, उनकी जो लेबोरेट्रीज़ हैं या फार्मसीज़ हैं, उन सबकी रेगुलर जांच करते हुए स्पेसिफाई कर देना चाहिए कि इन फार्मास्यूटिकल कंपनीज़ के माध्यम से ही दवाई खरीदी जानी चाहिए।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या वे इस पर विचार करेंगे?

श्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा: महोदय, जैसा मैंने पहले भी बताया, मैं माननीय सदस्य के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूं कि समय-समय पर हम प्रदेश सरकारों को इस दृष्टि से एडवाइज़ करते रहते हैं।

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: आप उन्हें बाध्य कीजिए ।

श्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा: इसके साथ ही साथ उनकी कैपेसिटी बिल्डिंग प्रोसेस में भी हम पूरी मदद करते हैं। आपका जो सुझाव आया है, इस सुझाव पर भी मंत्रालय अवश्य विचार करेगा।

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Has the Government initiated picking up of samples of drugs at random at all major cities to check their qualities in a regular manner by independent agencies?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Sir, we have not done this random checking by an independent agency but this has been done by the Government of India itself. As I told you earlier, 24,136 samples were collected of 62 brands and of 9 categories of 30 manufacturers, this has been done. Again, the Government of India is thinking of having another fresh survey and, from time to time, we will be doing this survey so that we keep a watch on these spurious drugs and action is taken accordingly.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Respected Chairman, the World Health Organisation recently observed that the healthcare system in India is not sufficient to cater to the needs of the Indian people. The pharmacies of Government hospitals are in pathetic plight. Across the nation, there was hue and cry to have the proper medicines through the Government pharmacies, whenever they visit there with a lot of ailments. In this situation, there is a dearth of Government public sector IDPL-like institutions to produce required pharmaceutical items. So, there is no level-playing field and counter balancing with the support of the Government institutions to produce the medicines. This is creating a dangerous situation ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: This is creating a dangerous situation and the spurious drugs are creeping in into the pharmacies of the Government hospitals. So, is the Union Government thinking to revitalise and re-establish IDPL-like institutions across the nation? I would like to know that, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you!

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Sir, I appreciate the hon. Member's concern but, at the same time, I would like to be very clear that this impression should not go that Government hospitals are supplying spurious medicines. Throughout the whole country, we have got 41 cases, out of which 28 were in Karnataka. Action has been taken and in all the respective States, wherever these cases have been found, action is initiated. I assure the House that action will be taken and the culprits will be brought to book.

Two, this is an ongoing process. We are trying to standardise it. This is the advice that we are giving to the hospitals run by the State Governments. We want to see to it that the drug list very clearly states as to which drugs are to be supplied, from which company they are supplied and the companies which are supplying them are cleared by the DCGI and good manufacturing practices are also taken into consideration. After that only we will clear that. This is what I can assure you.

Ceasefire violations by Pakistan

*2. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that violation of ceasefire by Pakistani troops along Jammu and Kashmir border has continued in the recent past;