

dated January 2, 2015, to express congratulations to the Government of India for demonstrating national and international leadership by notifying the new pictorial health warnings on 15th of October, 2014, which will cover 85% of the front and back of tobacco product packages, and will come into effect from 1st April, 2015.

Since the letter from the Canadian Cancer Society was only a congratulatory message, no formal response is considered necessary.

**Sale of spurious drugs in the country**

138. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of various reports doubting the quality of drugs manufactured in India and that they are being sold in the domestic and other markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has launched any facility to check and test spurious counterfeit and sub-standard medicines to analyze their quality;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government to prevent spurious drugs being manufactured and sold in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) Isolated cases of export of drugs of sub-standard quality by some Indian pharmaceutical companies have appeared in the media and on the websites of the regulatory authorities of foreign countries, etc. from time to time. These include the websites of United State Food and Drugs Administration and Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, United Kingdom. Based on the samples taken by Central Drugs Standard Control Organization during 2011-12 to 2014-15 (up to September, 2014), 0.03% samples were found to be spurious or adulterated and 3.33% samples were found to be not of standard quality. Such medicines are not allowed to be sold either in the domestic or in other markets.

(c) and (d) Samples are drawn by the officers of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and State Drug Regulatory officials regularly and these are tested at the drug testing laboratories. In cases, where samples are not found to be conforming to quality, appropriate action is taken by the State Drug Regulators. These include suspension, cancellation, rejection or debarment of the license.

(e) In order to check the problem of spurious/sub-standard drugs in the country, a number of steps have been taken by the Government. These include amendment to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 which provides for stringent penalties for

manufacture of spurious and adulterated drugs. Through that amendment, some offences have also been made cognizable and non-bailable. Further, 21 States/UTs have already set up Special Designated Courts for trial of such offences and the structures in the CDSCO have also been strengthened.

**Filling up of medical seats earmarked for SC/ST candidates**

139. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire seats earmarked for SC/ST students in M.B.B.S./B.D.S. at AIIMS, New Delhi; PGIMER, Chandigarh and JIPMER, Puducherry were duly filled during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) to (c) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi does not conduct any Entrance Examination for B.D.S. course. The number of seats for SC/ST students advertised and filled during the last three years for admission in MBBS course at AIIMS, New Delhi is as under:

Year	Seats Advertised		Seats Filled	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
2012	11	5	11	5
2013	11	5	11	5
2014	11	5	11	5

There are no BDS seats in Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Puducherry. The number of seats for SC/ST students filled during the last three years for admission in MBBS course at JIPMER, Puducherry are as under:

Year	Seats Advertised		Seats Filled	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
2012	20	9	20	9
2013	21	8	21	8
2014	22	11	22	11

Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (PGIMER) is not pursuing any M.B.B.S./B.D.S. course.