Maggi noodles have been found to be containing more than the permissible limit of 2.5 ppm of lead. The samples have also been found to be violating the labelling requirements as far as presence of Monosodium Glutamate (MSG) is concerned. However, no report has been received by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) indicating the presence of detergent in Mother Dairy's milk samples.

(b) The FSSAI has issued an order dated 5th June 2015 directing M/s Nestle India Limited to withdraw and recall their products from the market. Further, a show cause notice has been issued to the company giving 15 days' time as to why Product Approvals granted in respect of 9 variants of Maggi Noodles should not be withdrawn.

(c) The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has ordered recall of the food products, and/or withdrawn the provisional "No Objection Certificates" (NOCs) issued in respect of various food products manufactured by MNCs who violated the provisions of the FSS Act or Regulations thereunder. Some of the food products are Maggi Instant Noodles, Monster Energy Drink, Cloud 9 Energy Drink, Tzinga Energy drink and Akoaroma Flavored Water. Besides, safety standards of food items have been notified in respect of around 365 categories of food products. These standards are enforced by the Food Safety Departments of the States/UTs; however, details in this regard are not maintained centrally.

(d) The implementation and enforcement of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 primarily rests with the State/UT Governments. Samples of food items will continue to be drawn by the State Food Safety Officers and sent to the laboratories authorized by the FSSAI for analysis. In cases, where samples are found to be not conforming to the provisions of the Act, the Rules and Regulations made thereunder, action as per the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and regulations 2011, will be taken.

Action plan for distribution of free medicines

104. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:

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

(a) the action plan drawn by Government to distribute free life-saving and generic drugs to boost healthcare services in the country indicating the financial and operational modalities worked out for the purpose;

(b) whether Government proposes to provide all the drugs/drug formulations included in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) under the scheme, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor indicating the drugs selected to be provided under the plan; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to ensure the quality, safety and standards of the drugs?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) Public Health being a state subject, it is primarily for the States/UTs to draw up such action plans as per their need. However, under the National Health Mission (NHM), financial and technical support is being provided to the States/UTs for strengthening their healthcare delivery system including support for provision of free drugs to those who access public health facilities based on the requirement posed by the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans. An incentive of up to 5% additional funding (over and above the normal allocation of the State) under the NHM is provided to those States that introduce free medicines scheme. Under the NHM-Free Drug Service Initiative substantial funding is available to States for provision of free drugs subject to States/UTs meeting certain specified conditions. Detailed Operational Guidelines for NHM-Free Drugs Service Initiative have also been released to the States on 2nd July, 2015.

The number of free drugs provided by the States varies from State to State and most States have their own list of essential medicines to be provided free in public facilities. As such, support is available to the States/UTs if they decide to provide free Essential medicines as per the National List.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to check spurious/sub-standard drugs in the country include:

- Under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder, the regulatory control over the drugs imported in to the country is exercised by the Central Government through the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
- The manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs is regulated under the said Act and Rules by the State Drugs Control Authorities appointed by the State Governments.
- The regulatory control over the manufacture and sale of the drugs is exercised through a system of licensing and inspection.
- The manufacturer is required to comply with the requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices specified under Schedule M of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules and conditions of the licence so as to ensure that the drugs manufacturers in the country conform to the standards prescribed for them.

Further, the Government has taken following steps to check the menace of spurious/sub-standard drugs:

1. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 was amended under Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008. Stringent penalties for manufacture of spurious and adulterated drugs have been provided. Certain offences have also been made cognizable and non-bailable.
2. The States/UTs have been requested to set up special Courts for trial of offences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act for speedy disposal. 25 States have already set up designated special Courts for trial of cases related to spurious and sub-standard drugs.
3. A Whistle Blower Scheme has been announced by the Government of India to encourage vigilant public participation in the detection of movement of spurious drugs in the country. The scheme provides for suitably rewarding the informers for providing concrete information to the regulatory authorities in respect of movement of spurious drugs. The details of policy are available at the website of CDSCO (*www.cdsco.nic.in*).
4. 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 forwarded to the State Drugs, Controllers for uniform implementation.
5. The Government has decided to strengthen both the Central and States' drug regulatory system during the Twelfth Five Year Plan enabling them to keep more effective watch on these unscrupulous elements indulging in unlawful activities.
6. The number of sanctioned posts in Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has been increased from 111(as on April, 2008) to 474 (as on Feb., 2015).
7. Provision of quality assurance for the drugs provided in public health facilities under the NHM.

Creation of awareness on immunization

105. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has unveiled a major campaign to create awareness on immunization, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that every child in the country is not immunized or is partially immunized; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering taking up around 201 high focus districts for implementation of immunization programme, if so, the details thereof?