

Substandard drugs in Government supply chain

2525. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the largest-ever survey by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, more than ten per cent of drugs in the Government supply chain were found to be Not of Standard Quality (NSQ), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to tighten drugs quality norms before it implements the generics only prescription policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) Yes, in a nation-wide Survey of Extent of problems of spurious and Not of Standard Quality drugs in the Country (2014-16), 10.02% of drug samples drawn from Government sources were found to be 'Not of Standard Quality' (NSQ). The report has been shared with all the State Governments and Union Territories Administrators and they have been requested to take urgent remedial measures to improve the quality of drugs in the country.

(b) Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 were amended *vide* GSR No. 327 (E) dated 03.04.2017, stipulating a requirement that "the applicant shall submit the result of bioequivalence study referred to in Schedule Y, along with the application for grant of a license of oral dosage form of drugs specified under category II and category IV of the biopharmaceutical classification system".

All the drugs manufactured in the country, whether branded or generic, are required to comply with the same standards prescribed in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 made thereunder.

Palliative care units for cancer patients

2526. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of patients suffering from cancer in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether palliative care units are not adequate in all the States compared to the number of cancer patients, if so, the palliative care units in every State, district-wise;

(c) the districts in every State which have become total palliative care or where all cancer patients in need of relief from pain resulting from cancer are getting palliative care; and