

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:124
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
EXPIRED MEDICINES IN MEDICAL STORE DEPOTS
ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN;RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

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

- (a) whether the Medical store depots under the Director General Health have huge stock of expired medicines;
- (b) if so, the quantum thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any enquiry had been conducted into it; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof including the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 124 FOR 10.12.2003

The Medical Store Depots under the Directorate General of Health Services have a stock of Rs. 3.92 crore worth of expired medicines. The stock relates to procurement largely made from 1980-81 to 1996-97. The total stocks of expired medicines works out to less than 1% of total procurement by MSO since inception.

The reasons for expiry of drugs in MSDs inter-alia include

- (i) Stores were purchased in anticipation of demand as per Para 29 of Manual for Medical Store Depots but the items could not be issued due to lower demand.
- (ii) Return of uncosumed drugs by the indentors/user organization.

Due to the above situation, a decision was taken in 2000-2001 to procure stores only against confirmed demands from indenter organization. As a result, no stocks of expired medicines have been added during the last three years.

In order to look into the issue of stocks of expired medicines, a Departmental Committee headed by the Drug Controller General of India was set up to enquire into the matter in 1997. The Committee found the heads of GMSDs responsible for their failure to supervise the purchase and disposal system in the depots and for circumventing the delegated powers. On the basis of the findings of the Committee, action has been taken against the concerned officials in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).