

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:396

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2006

SALE OF SPURIOUS DRUGS

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to take stringent steps to check the sale of spurious drugs in the country;
- (b) if so, the approximate value of spurious drugs sold in the market during each of the last three years;
- (c) the approximate percentage of India's share in the production of spurious drugs in the world;
- (d) the approximate percentage of spurious drugs out of total drugs produced in the country;
- (e) whether all the States have drug testing laboratories to test the drugs;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the manufacturing and marketing of spurious drugs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (g) : Yes, Sir. The State Drugs Control Organisations who are entrusted with the task of regulating manufacture and sale of drugs including monitoring of quality of drugs and also to check any possible movement of spurious drugs, have been furnished with detailed guidelines to ensure effective monitoring over manufacture and sale of any spurious medicine. Moreover, a bill has been placed in the Parliament to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 to provide stricter punishment to the offenders including maximum penalty of life imprisonment as well as stiff fines. The bill further provides for making such offences non-bailable and cognizable and to constitute designated court for speedy trials.

Manufacture and sale of spurious drugs is a clandestine activity and therefore it is not possible to maintain details of such activities. However, as per information received from State Drugs Control Organisations following are the details of samples found spurious out of the total samples of drugs tested in the last 3 years:

| Year | No. of samples tasted | No. of samples declared spurious |
|------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

| | | |
|---------|--------|-----|
| 2004-05 | 49,287 | 144 |
| 2003-04 | 40,862 | 118 |
| 2002-03 | 43,138 | 129 |

As per the available information total 19 States/UTs are having Drugs Testing Laboratories to test drugs. Further, under World Bank assisted Capacity Project for food and drugs. States have been provided facilities for enhancing their drug testing capacity and also to promote Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) in industry, ensure uniform enforcement capabilities for State Drugs Regulatory Agencies, train regulatory staff and industry personnel.