

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:373

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005

SPURIOUS DRUGS

Gohain Shri Rajen;Murmu Shri Hemlal

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

- (a) whether expenditure on medical research is substantially low as compared to average spending on health care;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of medical laboratories in the country to check spurious drugs, state-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has allocated funds to establish some more laboratories;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to check spurious drugs in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 373 FOR 20TH APRIL, 2005

(a)&(b): Expenditure on medical research is low as compared to average spending on health care. According to the National Health Policy, 2002, expenditure on health research in the public and private sectors was of the order of Rs. 1150 crores in 1998-99 against an aggregate annual expenditure of Rs. 80000 crores. Recognizing the need in the newly emerging frontier areas of research based on genetic and genome based drugs and vaccine development, monoclonal biology etc., the National Health Policy, 2002, envisages an increase in government funded health research to a level of 1% of total health spending by 2005 and thereafter upto 2% by 2010.

(c)to(e): There are 6 drug laboratories under the Central Government and 20 drug laboratories in the States to check spurious drugs and the state-wise list of these laboratories is annexed. 3 drug laboratories are being set up in the newly created States of Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttranchal and the project cost of the new laboratories is of the order of Rs 941.81 lakhs.

(f) The steps taken by the Government to check spurious drugs include:

Detailed guidelines issued to State Governments to undertake focused surveillance over possible movement of spurious drugs.

A Capacity Building Project through World Bank assistance has been taken up to provide substantial assistance to State Governments to upgrade drug testing facilities or to establish new drug testing laboratories. It is expected to increase the number of samples tested in the country from about 36,000 samples to 1,00,000 samples per year and to reduce the reporting time to less than a month as against the present period from 3 to 6 months.

Specific training programmes for regulatory officials of State Government on logistics of intelligence work, prosecutions etc. has been conducted with the assistance of FDA, Maharashtra. This activity is proposed to be continued.

In order to ensure efficient information exchange between drug regulatory officers in the country, in respect of licensing, sampling, prosecution, etc., a countrywide computer networking project has been undertaken by the Central Government. This will enable the Central Government to regularly monitor the enforcement activities and recommend corrective measures

Pharma Industry and trade have been motivated to fight the menace of spurious drugs as a shared responsibility. Number of cases could be successfully detected through the initiatives taken by Pharma Industry involving hiring of retired intelligence officers.

Since the success of eradicating the menace of spurious drugs depends upon adequate measures taken by State Governments, this issue was taken up by the Union Health & Family Welfare Minister in October, 2002, with all Chief Ministers.

A meeting of Health Ministers of all major States was specially convened in November, 2002, to ensure the action to check the menace of spurious drugs. The views emerged in the meeting have been communicated to all State Governments

The recommendation of Mashelkar Committee which was constituted by the Government in 2003 to examine all aspects relating to the drug regulatory system in the country including the problem of spurious/sub standard drugs, are being followed for necessary change in legislation as well as improvement of enforcement activities.

ANNEXURE
NO. OF DRUG TESTING LABORATORIES IN THE COUNTRY, STATEWISE

Name of State	Name of Drug Laboratory
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad and Vijawada
Delhi	Delhi
Gujarat	Vadodara
Haryana	Chandigarh
Himachal Pradesh	Kanda Ghath
Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram
Karnataka	Bangalore
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
Orissa	Bhubaneshwar
Pondicherry	Pondicherry
Rajasthan	Jaipur
Tamil Nadu	Chennai
Tripura	Agartala
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
West Bengal	Kolkata
Chattisgarh	Raipur (New)
Jharkhand	Ranchi (New)
Uttaranchal	Patwadangre (New)
Maharashtra	Mumbai and Aurangabad
Goa	Panaji