

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. #*22
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2025**

**STUDY ON AVAILABILITY AND USE OF COUNTERFEIT
MEDICINES**

#*22. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

- (a) whether any study has been conducted on the availability and use of banned and counterfeit medicines in the market in the country;
- (b) whether large-scale use of counterfeit and banned medicines is causing adverse effects on people's health; and
- (c) the action taken in this regard in the last three years, the details thereof, year-wise?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

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

**STATEMENT REFFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. #*22 FOR 22.07.2025**

(a): The terminology “Counterfeit Medicines” is not defined under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder. However, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act defines spurious, adulterated, misbranded drugs which includes counterfeit drugs.

A nation-wide survey (2014-16) was conducted to assess the extent of Not of Standard Quality (NSQ)/Spurious drugs. A total 47,012 drug samples were drawn from both Governments and private sources.

(b): The manufacture of Spurious/Adulterated/ Not of Standard Quality drugs (NSQ) drugs is a punishable offence under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The Act empowers the concerned licensing authorities to take necessary legal action in such cases. Furthermore, the manufacture, sale, and distribution of any prohibited or banned drug is also a punishable offence under the Act, and the Licensing Authorities concerned are authorized to initiate appropriate action in this regard.

Use of any Spurious/Adulterated/Not of Standard Quality drugs etc. is detrimental and may cause adverse effects on patient’s health.

Isolated complaints regarding such drugs as and when received are investigated along with the concerned licensing authorities for taking action.

(c): The details of number of drug samples reported Not of Standard Quality/spurious/ adulterated and enforcement action taken by the States/UTs Drugs Controller during last three years of various States/U.Ts is as under:

Year (April to March)	Number of drugs samples tested	Number of drugs samples declared Not of Standard Quality	Number of drugs samples declared Spurious/ Adulterated	Number of prosecution launched for manufacturing sale and distribution of spurious/adulterated drugs
2022-23	96,713	3,053	424	663
2023-24	1,06,150	2,988	282	604
2024-25	1,16,323	3,104	245	961
