

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYUSH**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 169
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd DECEMBER 2025**

Heavy metal contaminations in herbal medicines

169 Shri Raghav Chadha:

Will the Minister of *Ayush* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of reports of heavy metals in several medicines sold under the label of Ayurvedic, herbal, Unani, etc.;
- (b) whether any checks and balances are in place to prevent sale of such medicines; and
- (c) whether there are any standard operating procedure or mandatory certification for such articles that consumers should look for before purchasing them to prevent them from any unchecked chemical toxicity, and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYUSH
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) As per clause 1.1 (N) of Schedule T of Drugs Rules 1945, all the finished goods of Ayurveda, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Unani are tested as per their respective pharmacopoeial standards and where the tests are not available, the test should be performed according to the manufacturer's specification or other information available. Routine inspections are done by the Drug Inspectors of concerned State/UTs and samples of Ayush medicines are lifted and sent to Government approved laboratories for test/analysis for heavy metal limit wherever applicable.

(b) Section 33EEB of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 prohibits manufacturing for sale or for distribution of Ayurveda, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa or Unani drug except in accordance with respective standards and section 33EEC of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 prohibits manufacturing for sale or for distribution of misbranded, adulterated and spurious Ayurveda, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa or Unani drugs. Further, penalties are mentioned under section 33I of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 for manufacturing for sale of medicines mentioned under section 33EEB and section 33EEC of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

(c) Schedule E(I) of the Drugs Rules, 1945 comprises a list of ingredients, including heavy metals like arsenic, mercury. As per Rule 161 of the Drugs Rules, 1945, it is mandatory for manufacturers to clearly mention on the label and container of Ayush medicines containing ingredients listed

under Schedule E(I) that “Caution: To be taken under medical supervision”, in both English and Hindi.
