

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1875#
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH DECEMBER, 2025**

VACANT POSTS OF DRUG INSPECTORS AND SHORTAGE OF LABORATORIES

1875 # SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

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

- (a) the details of posts of Drug Inspectors lying vacant along with the shortage of laboratories in the country at present, State-wise;
- (b) the reasons for the delay in filling up these vacancies by Government;
- (c) the details of the samples of drugs received for testing in the laboratories in the country, year-wise and State-wise;
- (d) the number of samples of drugs found invalid annually due to shortage of drug inspectors and laboratories during the last three years; and
- (e) the safety measures being taken by Government to ensure the quality and safety of medicines for the public?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (d): The number of the sanctioned post and filling of the vacant post of Drug Inspectors in the states come under the respective State Government. Such information is not maintained centrally. In so far, as Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) is concerned, there are total 249 vacant posts of Drugs Inspectors.

Details of State/UT wise list of Drug testing laboratories is provided at Annexure.

As per information received from States/UTs Drugs Controllers, the number of drug samples tested during last three years by various States/U.Ts and status regarding number of drug samples declared Not of Standard Quality/spurious/ adulterated as under:

Financial Year	Number of drugs samples tested	Number of drugs samples declared Not of Standard	Number of drugs samples declared Spurious/ Adulterated	Number of prosecution for manufacturing, sale and distribution of spurious/adulterated drugs

		Quality		
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

(e): CDSCO and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in recent years have taken following measures to ensure the quality and safety of medicines in the country.

- (i) In order to assess the regulatory compliance of drug manufacturing premises in the country, the CDSCO along with State Drugs Controllers (SDCs) have conducted Risk-Based Inspections of more than 960 premises since December, 2022 and based on findings, more than 860 actions like issuance of show cause notices, stop production order, suspension, cancellation of licenses /product licenses, warning letters have been taken by the State Licensing Authorities.
- (ii) List of drugs of various companies, which are declared Not of Standard Quality/ Spurious/ Misbranded/ Adulterated by the Central Drugs Testing Laboratories is uploaded and available on the website of CDSCO under the heading of Drug Alert (www.cdsco.gov.in) and actions initiated.
- (iii) The Drugs Rules, 1945 have been amended in year 2023 to mandate that manufacturers of the top 300 drug formulation brands listed in Schedule H2 shall print or affix a Bar Code or QR Code on the primary packaging label, or on the secondary label where space is insufficient, to store data readable through software applications for authentication. Similarly, the Rules have also been amended to require that every Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (bulk drug), whether manufactured or imported, shall bear a QR Code on each level of packaging containing data readable through software applications to facilitate tracking and tracing.
- (iv) The Central Government has amended the Drugs Rules 1945 vide G.S.R. 922 (E) dated 28.12.2023 to revise the schedule M to the said rules related to Good Manufacturing Practices and requirements of premises, plant and equipment for pharmaceutical products. Revised Schedule M has become effective for the drug manufacturers with turnover > Rs. 250 crores from 29.06.2024. However, for manufacturers having turnover of less than Rs. 250 Cr, conditional extension up to 31.12.2025 is currently operational for those who submitted their upgradation plan for the extended compliance period.
- (v) In February 2024, CDSCO published regulatory guidelines for the sampling of drugs, cosmetics, and medical devices by Central and State Drugs Inspectors. These guidelines provide a structured approach to ensure the quality and efficacy of products available in the market through uniform drug sampling methodology.
- (vi) An online portal, SUGAM labs is in place since September 2023 for integrating the drug testing labs of the CDSCO. It automates the entire workflow for testing of

Medical Products (Drugs, Vaccine, Cosmetics & Medical devices) to meet the quality specification and tracing the testing status in the laboratories.

- (vii) The Central regulator coordinates activities of State Drug Control Organisations and provides expert advice through the Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) meetings held with State Drugs Controllers for uniformity in administration of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
- (viii) The Central government is providing regular residential, regional training and workshops to officials of CDSCO and State Drug Regulatory Authorities on Good Manufacturing Practices. In the Financial Year 2023-24 CDSCO has trained 22854 persons while in Financial Year 2024-25, 20551 persons have been trained.

Annexure**State/UT-wise list of the number of State Drug Testing Laboratories**

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of State Drug Testing Labs*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4
2.	Assam	1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
4.	Andaman & Nicobar	0
5.	Bihar	1
6.	Chhattisgarh	1
7.	Delhi	1
8.	Dadra NH , Daman & Diu	1
9.	Goa	1
10.	Gujarat	3
11.	Haryana	2
12.	Himachal Pradesh	2
13.	Jharkhand	1
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	3
15.	Kerala	7
16.	Karnataka	3
17.	Ladakh	1
18.	Maharashtra	5
19.	Madhya Pradesh	4
20.	Manipur	1
21.	Meghalaya	1
22.	Mizoram	1
23.	Nagaland	1
24.	Odisha	2
25.	Puducherry	1
26.	Punjab	1
27.	Rajasthan	4
28.	Sikkim	1
29.	Tamil Nadu	2
30.	Tripura	1
31.	Telangana	1
32.	Uttar Pradesh	7
33.	Uttarakhand	1
34.	West Bengal	1

*These labs are under the administrative control of concerned State Governments and includes only those labs which are funded under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Strengthening of States’ Drug Regulatory System”, based on proposals submitted by the States/UTs.

State/UT wise list of laboratories under the administrative control of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization:

Sr. No.	States/UTs	Number of Drug Testing Lab
1	Chandigarh	1
2.	Himachal Pradesh	1
3.	West Bengal	1
4.	Telangana	2
5.	Tamil Nadu	1
6.	Assam	1
7.	Maharashtra	3
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1
9.	Odisha	1
10.	Delhi	1
11.	Gujarat	1
12.	Karnataka	1
