

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 274
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JULY, 2026**

TESTING AND MONITORING OF DRUGS BY THE CDSCO

274. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

- (a) the details of samples of cough syrups, medicines, oral rehydration salts (ORS), protein powders and other nutritional supplements tested by the CDSCO during the last five years, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the number and details of samples found to be substandard or adulterated, along with the action taken against the concerned manufacturers or distributors;
- (c) whether Government has launched any special drives to track and prevent counterfeit health and nutritional products and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken to strengthen drug testing infrastructure and laboratory capacity in States/UTs?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs are regulated in the country under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder through a system of licensing and inspection.

As per information received from various States/Union Territories Drugs Controllers (SDCs), number of drug samples reported Not of Standard Quality/spurious/adulterated by the States/UTs Drugs Controller during the last five years is as follows:

Financial Year	No. of drugs samples tested	No. of drugs samples declared Not of Standard Quality	No. of drugs samples declared Spurious/ Adulterated
2021-22	88,844	2,545	379
2022-23	96,713	3,053	424
2023-24	1,06,150	2,988	282
2024-25	1,16,323	3,104	245
2025-26	1,41,322	3,012	283

Further, Food Safety Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) and its regional offices through the State/UT Food Safety Departments, carry out regular surveillance, monitoring, inspections, and random sampling of food to ensure compliance with the quality & safety standards established under the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSS), 2006, and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

(c): As a part of quality monitoring and in order to assess the regulatory compliance of drug manufacturing premises in the country, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), in collaboration with state regulators, initiated risk-based inspections of drug manufacturing and testing firms in December 2022. Firms have been identified based on risk criteria like number of drugs declared as not of standard quality, complaints, criticality of the products etc. As of now, CDSCO along with SDCs have conducted risk-based inspections of more than 1040 premises since December, 2022 and based on findings, more than 950 actions like issuance of show cause notices, stop production order, suspension, cancellation of licenses /product licenses, warning letters have been taken by the States/UTs as per the provisions of the Drugs Rules 1945.

List of drugs of various companies, which are declared Not of Standard Quality/ Spurious/ Adulterated by the Central Drugs Testing Laboratories is uploaded and available on the website of CDSCO under the heading of Drug Alert (www.cdsc.gov.in) and actions initiated as per provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules thereunder.

(d): Further, for strengthening the drug regulatory system in the country, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has implemented a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Strengthening of States' Drug Regulatory System (SSDRS). The scheme envisages upgrading existing State laboratories, setting up of new drug testing laboratories and upgradation of existing State drug control offices in the country. Under the SSDRS Scheme, funds totalling Rs. 756 Crore has been released to States/UTs as part of the Central Share and 24 New Drug Testing Labs have been constructed and 32 existing labs have been up-graded in various States/UTs.
