

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.173
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21ST DEEMBER, 2018
QUALITY OF MEDICINES**

***173. SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL:
SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:**

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to look into the quality aspects of medicines being distributed in the Government hospitals and dispensaries;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(c) the percentage of poor quality medicines being sold in the market in comparison with the percentage of such medicines being given in Government hospitals and dispensaries;

(d) the reasons for a large quantity of medicines available in Government hospitals and dispensaries being of poor quality as compared to private chemist shops and private hospitals; and

(e) whether the Government has taken any action in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

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

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.173* FOR 21ST DECEMBER, 2018**

(a) to (c):- A nation-wide survey (2014-16) was conducted to assess the extent of Not of Standard Quality (NSQ)/Spurious drugs. Out of a total 47012 drug samples drawn from both government and private sources, the estimated percentage of NSQ and spurious drugs from retail outlets was 3% and 0.023% respectively, while that from Government sources was 10.02% and 0.059% respectively.

(d): In some of the States, the percentage of NSQ drugs is much higher than the National average which points to certain deficiencies in the existing procurement processes. Lack of uniform levels of enforcement may be leading to difference in the extent of NSQ in retail outlets and Government supply chain in different States/UTs. However, in so far as the drugs procured by the Hospitals under the purview of Central Government and those procured by the Medical Store Organization (MSO) are concerned, stringent quality control procedures are in place to ensure the quality of drugs being procured.

(e): The report has been shared with all the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations and they have been requested to take urgent remedial measures to improve the quality of drugs in the country including by way of taking legal samples of the same batches of drugs as were declared NSQ, for testing.
