

Drug samples of three Baddi companies fail

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With five drugs from as many as three pharmaceutical firms figuring in the monthly list of the national drug alert issued by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) today, a question mark has been raised over their manufacturing standards.

These drugs include Cipro 500-mg tablets, manufactured by Kala Amb-based Vardhman Labs, which have been found to be substandard by the Tripura government. The unit was illegally manufacturing drugs after the

expiry of its licence in 2009 and its nefarious operations were unearthed by the drug control administration of the state during a raid in September. The owners of the firm are still at large, though the police had registered a case of cheating and forgery against them.

Brooks Lab, Kishenpura, in Baddi is the other firm whose Depent 40-mg tablet has failed to meet the standards in Hyderabad.

The most surprising fact was the occurrence of three batches of Intacal-D tablet of a single-drug manufacturing firm, BHC Lab, Bad-

di, which were found substandard by the Kolkata-based Central Drug Testing Laboratory.

Of the 15 drugs declared substandard by various drug control regimes in various states, four pertain to Himachal and the DCGI has issued an alert for immediate withdrawal of these batches from the market.

Drug Controller Navneet Marwaha said action, including cancellation of product approval and suspension of the licence, was taken depending on the level of negligence or substandard drug content detected in such cases.

Regd Army