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EXCLUSIVE

By Neetu Chandra in New Delhi

THERE is a high chance that the medicines prescribed routinely to people may not be helping them as they are just duds. Drugs as as they are just dutis. Drugs as common as paracetamol and cer-tain antibiotics, readily available at chemist shops, may be fake and not of standard quality, alerts

and not of scaladard quality, act is a government report. In January 2014, at least 32 medi-cines sold in hospitals and chemist shops across India, including the national Capital, have failed govern-ment tests and have been declared

At least 32 medicines failed government tests

'not of standard quality' by the Health Ministry's Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). The ministry has recently put several medicines that are commonly sold in the market on high alert. Paracetamol table IP 500 mg, which is a widely used over-the-counter pain reliever and antipyretic (used to control fever), is one of them. The drug commonly used for headaches and other minor pains, which is manufactured by a Chennal-based company, has failed the government test. hypertension, have been put on alert by the ministry. "The drugs that failed different tests ranging from colour, weight to dissolution have been put on high alert. The drugs have been withdrawn from the market by the respective CDSO branches in the area where they were manufac-tured or were being distributed," said a senior health ministry off-cial. "Joint surprise checks are

a Chennai-based company, has failed the government test. Similarly, Needin SR 20, which is used to control blood pressure, RONFLOX an antibiotic, manu-factured by a company in Himachal Pradesh, have been found lacking in standard. Com-monly used. Another commonly used drug Angizaar 50 tablets, prescribed for diabetes and

standard meas 2



Sub-standard quality drugs found in surprise checks by Delhi drug control department. ■ 16 of 300 drug samples from various private

being conducted with the state drug controllers to check the qual-ity of drugs on monthly basis. Under such checks, samples are drawn from government hospitals, retail and wholesale dealers hav-ing different pharmacological cat-egorles," he said. The Centre tested around 2,000 drug samples in the last one year and found that more than 180 drugs manufactured in different

chemists were of sub-stan-dard quality.

3 of 42 samples tested from government pharmacles were not of standard quality.

parts of the country to be substan-dard. It immediately informed the drugs controllers of the states con-cerned to stop their distribution and to take action against the manufacturers under the drugs and cosmetics Act, 1940. "We recently had a meeting to strengthen the drug control sys-tem in India. We are set to increase the number of drug inspectors in all zones. The drug inspectors will

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Antibiotic **ENEEDIN SR 2**

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go to the manufacturing sites and check the quality of the medi-cines," said Dr Jagdish Prasad, Director General of Health Ser-vices, Ministry of Health. The Health Ministry has recently hired 200 drug inspectors for keeping a tab on fake medi-cines. There are more than 10,000 drugs manufacturers in India while there are more than six lakh chemist outlets.

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