

FOR REPRESENTATION



The health ministry has put several commonly sold medicines on high alert.

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 common as paracetamol and certain antibiotics, readily available at chemist shops, may be fake and not of standard quality, alerts a government report.

In January 2014, at least 32 medicines sold in hospitals and chemist shops across India, including the national Capital, have failed government tests and have been declared

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'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 tablet 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 Chennai-based company, has failed the government test.

Similarly, Needin SR 20, which is used to control blood pressure, RONFLOX an antibiotic, manufactured by a company in Himachal Pradesh, have been found lacking in standard. Commonly used. Another commonly used drug Angizaar 50 tablets, prescribed for diabetes and

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 The drugs have been withdrawn from the market by the respective CDSCO branches in the area where they were manufactured or were being distributed," said a senior health ministry official. "Joint surprise checks are

■ Sub-standard quality drugs found in surprise checks by Delhi drug control department.

■ 16 of 300 drug samples from various private

chemists were of sub-standard quality.

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

Sub-standard & fake meds flood nation

QUALITY CHECK IN DELHI

DRUG ALERT

■ **PARACETAMOL 500MG** — For fever and pain

■ **OFLOMAC 400** — Antibiotic

■ **RONFLOX 400** — Antibiotic

■ **NEEDIN SR 20** — Helps keep blood pressure under control

■ **OFLOMAC 400** — Antibiotic

■ **LEVOCETIRIZINE IP** — For runny nose, sneezing and seasonal allergies

■ **ADP 25/250 mg** — to moderate hypertension

go to the manufacturing sites and check the quality of the medicines," said Dr Jagdish Prasad, Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health.

The Health Ministry has recently hired 200 drug inspectors for keeping a tab on fake medicines. There are more than 10,000 drugs manufacturers in India while there are more than six lakh chemist outlets.

Regulatory