

14th September, 2012

NOTICE

There was a news article quoting “a WHO report saying that about almost 20% of medicines sold in India are fake”.

The issue was taken up with WHO Representative to India. The WHO office has clarified vide their letter No. WR/D.7 dated 31 August, 2012, denying such study conducted by WHO regarding fake drugs menace in the past several years (Clarification enclosed).



**World Health
Organization**

Office of the WHO Representative to India

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Reference: WR/D.7

Dr Arun K. Panda
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Nirman Bhawan
New Delhi 110011

31 August 2012

Dear Dr Panda,

Subject: Government crackdowns on fake drugs menace in India

This has reference to Director (IH) letter No. X 11011/2/2010- DFQC dated 8 August 2012 on the above-mentioned subject. This is to clarify that there is no such study conducted by WHO regarding fake drugs menace in the past several years.

This has also been clarified earlier by the Office of the WHO Representative to India, and subsequently got reflected in the "The Report on Countrywide Survey for Spurious Drugs" (2009), by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, which is reproduced below:

Quote "The figures quoted by media range from 10% to 25% of drugs in the country being spurious drugs. These are totally unsubstantiated reports. For example, on the basis of an alleged WHO report, the media frequently reports that 35% of fake drugs produced in the world come from India. However, when enquired, WHO has neither confirmed its authenticity nor did hint the source of such figures. WHO Representative in India has clarified that there is no actual study by WHO concluding that 35% of the world spurious drugs are produced in India. He has also regretted that occasionally some individuals in the media and the organizations use WHO references incorrectly and even irresponsibly" Unquote

Hope this clarifies this issue.

Thank you and best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dr Nata Menabde
WHO Representative to India

cc: Mr Sanjay Prasad, Director (International Health), MOH&FW, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
Dr G.N. Singh, Drugs Controller General of India, FDA Bhawan, CHEB Campus, Kotla Road,
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