SUSTAINED EFFORT

The government has over the past 11 months taken sustained steps to crack down on the manufacture and sale of fake drugs in the country.

- **July 2003:** Delhi high court raises health concern over fake drugs
- **December 2003:**
  - Expert committee submits report on fake medicines recommending an investigation of the extent of spurious drugs and changes in law
  - Bill on spurious drugs, The Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2003, introduced in Lok Sabha
- **February 2004:** The Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2003, lapses in Lok Sabha
- **May 2005:** New Bill on spurious drugs introduced in Rajya Sabha and then referred to parliamentary standing committee
- **December 2005:** Committee submits report largely endorsing the proposed Bill
- **May 2007:** A survey by SEARPharm with WHO concludes that 0.3% drugs in India are fake and 3.1% are counterfeit
- **July 2007:** India's drugs regulator moots idea of nationwide survey to map spread of fake drugs
- **May 2008:** Drugs regulator widens scope of survey and reduces sample size from 50,000 to 30,000
- **October 2008:** Spurious drugs Bill is approved by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and sent to the President
- **November 2008:** Sample collection for nationwide survey to assess extent of fake drugs in India starts
- **December 2008:** Bill approved by President and now called Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008
- **July 2009:** Ghulam Nabi Azad announces whistle-blower policy to reward those who alert government agencies of spurious drug manufacturers
- **August 2009:** Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008 notified and implemented with stricter penalties for fake drug manufacturers
- **November 2009:**
  - Guidelines for whistleblower policy approved and implemented
  - Government survey estimates 0.046% drugs in India are fake