

**Question for written answer E-004499/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Anthony Smith (The Left)

Subject: Risks posed by counterfeit medicines and medical devices from India

India's pharmaceutical industry has seen vigorous growth over many years. In 2024, it was worth EUR 50 billion, and it produced 20 % of the world's generic medicines and 60 % of all vaccines. According to India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Europe's share of the country's medicine exports was roughly 18.93 % in 2024.

Despite the World Health Organization having repeatedly called on the Indian Government to address the gaps in its health regulations, India continues to produce antibiotics without active ingredients and hazardous medical products. The latest scandal occurred in September, when a cough syrup contaminated with diethylene glycol – a highly toxic chemical – resulted in the deaths of around 20 children in the country. In 2023, similar cases claimed more than 140 victims in The Gambia, Uzbekistan and Cameroon.

In view of the above:

1. Can the Commission guarantee that medicines entering the EU market, especially those sold on the internet, comply fully with its requirements, and that EU patients and consumers are safe?
2. Does it intend to take any action to bolster EU production of medicines, notably generic medicines, and medical devices?

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