

NO. No. AI/551/18/15

New Delhi the 3.8.2015 20

Shri Prashant Reddy T., Advocate,
C/o Lex One Partners, E-19, LGF,
Jangpura Extension,
New Delhi-110014.

Subject: RTI application received from Shri Prashant Reddy.T. dated 3.7.15 under
RTI Act, 2005.

Sir,

With reference to your above mentioned RTI application a copy of the press
release issued by the NAFDAC, Nigerian regulator is enclosed as forwarded by the
High Commission of India in Abuja (Nigeria).

2. If you are aggrieved with this reply, you may file an appeal to Shri Sanjiv
Kohli, Joint Secretary (West Africa) and First Appellate Authority, Ministry of External
Affairs, Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, 23-D, Janpath, New Delhi – 110011 within a
month from the date of receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully,



Encl.a.a.

(Jasvinder Singh)
Deputy Secretary (WA)/CPIO,
West Africa Division,
Room No.0155,
B Wing, Ground Floor,
Jawahar Lal Nehru Bhavan,
23-D, Janpath,
New Delhi-110011.
Ph.49018386

Copy to:

1. Smt. Meera Sisodia, US(RTI), MEA- for information.
2. DS(DD), MEA.
3. Publicity Officer (XMM), MEA.

"NAFDAC INTERCEPTED CONTAINER LOAD OF FAKE DRUGS."

PRESS CONFERENCE BY DIRECTOR GENERAL NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL, 1ST JUNE 2009.

NAFDAC in pursuit of its mandate of safeguarding the health of the nation as empowered by NAFDAC Act Cap N1 LFN 2004 has intercepted a container load of fake drugs.

A text message was received on the evening of Wed 20th May 2009 from an informant that Divine Favour Overseas Ltd with an address at 41, Tejuosho Street, Yaba, Lagos imported a container load (1 x 20FT) of Maloxine tablet but was declared as seal tape (cellotape). The container no. was given as PCIU 2184458, and said to be located at Phase IV Kirikiri Lighter Terminal Lagos. Within 24hours, NAFDAC located the said container at the terminal. A 100% physical inspection of the content revealed the following:

1. **Maloxine Tablet** – 348,000(Three hundred and forty eight thousand) satchets of three tablets each, contained in 6,960(Six thousand nine hundred and sixty) boxes packed in 960(Nine hundred and sixty) cartons.

Batch No: EM-396

Mfg Date: 04/2008

Exp Date: 03/2011

2. **Amalar Tablet** – 294,000(Two hundred and ninety four thousand) satchets of three tablets each, contained in 5880(five thousand eight hundred and eighty) boxes packed in 196 cartons.

Batch No: ARTP 0053

Mfg Date: Jan 2007

Exp Date: 2010

This consignment has a retail value of 32.1 Million Naira.

The labels on both products indicate they were manufactured in India. But the bill of lading shows the port of loading to be XINGANG in China, and the exporter as HEIHE CHENG FENG TRADING CO. LTD (Shenzhen

(Released under RTI Act)

Shenghetai Trading Co. Ltd). **These fake drugs are therefore produced in China but labelled 'made in India.'**

A clearing agent who was trying to clear the consignment was arrested. The case is currently being investigated by the Agency.

Both drugs are antimalarials containing the same active ingredients of sulfadoxine 500mg and pyrimethamine 25mg. Laboratory analysis of the drugs showed both to be fake, each containing **only sulfadoxine and no pyrimethamine**. The implications of using these fake drugs include:

- Treatment failure
- Drug resistance as the malaria parasite will develop immunity towards these drugs.
- Complications like anaemia
- Death if no effective drug is given thereafter

The total number of doses of both fake drugs is 642,000 (Six hundred and forty two thousand). Therefore if these fake drugs were not intercepted by NAFDAC, 642,000 adults will be affected. This figure will go up if children are given half or quarter dose as some parents and guardians sometimes do that.

NAFDAC appreciates the informant whose patriotism has saved many lives. The Agency is calling again on all Nigerians to be alert and report any suspected fake drug, unwholesome food and any other substandard regulated product. The public is also advised to buy their drugs in licensed Pharmacies and other authorised outlets and ensure all purchases are receipted.

NAFDAC is more poised to tackle drug counterfeiters and their merchants. Clearing agents who part-take in clearing fake drugs will have themselves to be blamed.

Thank You.

NAFDAC SAFEGUARDING THE HEALTH OF THE NATION.

(Released under RTI Act)

July 3, 2015

Central Public Information Officer,
Under-Secretary (RTI Cell),
Room No. 2021, 'A' Wing,
Jawahar Lal Nehru Bhawan,
23-D, Jangpach, New Delhi - 110 011

2015 (10)
D. No. 1459/10
RTI Cell - 23/07/2015

Dear Sir:

Sub: Communication from the High Commission in Abuja (Nigeria) regarding spurious/fake drugs bearing 'Made in India' label

I am writing to you, with reference to the attached order from Mr. A.K. Chaudhary, Director, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Appellate Authority under the RTI Act. This order was passed in an appeal filed by me under the RTI Act when the CPID of that Ministry had denied my request for a photocopy of a letter from the High Commission in Abuja (Nigeria) regarding the discovery of spurious/fake medicine bearing a 'Made in India' label despite being shipped from China. On appeal, Mr. Chaudhary has indicated that I should approach the MEA directly as the same letter contains other information regarding bilateral relations and that the MEA will have to take a call on whether such information will affect relations with foreign states. In light of his order, I am filing this letter which you may treat as a new RTI application and provide me with a photocopy of the following communications from the High Commission in Nigeria after redacting any information exempt from the RTI Act as provided under Section 10 of the Act.

- (i) The letter in June, 2009 from the High Commission in Abuja, Nigeria that was mentioned by the Minister in the Rajya Sabha in response to Question 77.
- (ii) The second letter in July, 2011 also from High Commission in Abuja, Nigeria that is mentioned by Mr. Chaudhary in the attached letter.

Photocopies of my original RTI Application to the MOHFW along with the parliamentary record on Q.77, the transfer letter from the MOHFW, the denial of information from the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, my appeal against this denial and the subsequent order passed in the appeal are all enclosed herewith. A sum of Rs. 10 is enclosed herewith in the Postal Order addressed to the PAO, MEA, New Delhi.

Warm Regards,

Prashant Reddy T., Advocate,
C/O: Lex One Partners, E-19, LGE,
Jungpura Extension,
New Delhi 110014.
Email: preddy85@gmail.com