

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS**

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2931
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th March, 2023

Drugs under DPCO

2931. SHRI RAJ KUMAR CHAHAR:

Will the Minister of **CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the drugs of which the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) is not required to be fixed under the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) are being sold at high prices by retailers to exploit the needy patients in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the initiatives taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) whether the Government has plans to fix the MRP of every drug under the DPCO through the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA)**

(a) to (c): National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) fixes the ceiling price of drugs specified in the Schedule -I of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO, 2013). NPPA also fixes retail price of a new drug under DPCO, 2013 which is applicable only to the applicant manufacturing/ marketing companies. Manufacturers of scheduled medicines may set the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) for their products within the ceiling price (plus applicable Goods and Service Tax) fixed by the NPPA. In case of non-scheduled formulation, no such ceiling is prescribed by NPPA and a manufacturer is at liberty to fix the MRP of the drugs launched by it. But no manufacturers can increase MRP by more than 10% of MRP during preceding 12 months.

The NPPA monitors the prices of scheduled as well as non-scheduled medicines under DPCO, 2013 and takes action against companies found overcharging the consumers based on the references received from Price Monitoring Resource Units (PMRUs) set up in the various States/UTs, the State Drugs Controllers; individuals; samples purchased from the open market; reports from market based data and also the complaints reported through the grievance redressal websites, 'Pharma Jan Samadhan' and 'Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)'.
