

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2266  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

**Affordable Cancer Medicines**

**2266. SHRI BHOLA SINGH:  
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:  
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:  
DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:  
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the number of cancer patients in the country has been rising every year due to many reasons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for ensuring the availability of affordable cancer medicines in the country;
- (d) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has issued notification regarding the price cap on certain medicines for cancer in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the other corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard so far?

**ANSWER**

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

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(a) & (b): As per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Cancer Registry Programme (ICMR-NCRP), under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, the estimated number of incidence of cancer cases in the country for the last three years is given below:

| Year                                | 2020      | 2021      | 2022      |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Estimated incidence of cancer cases | 13,92,179 | 14,26,447 | 14,61,427 |

(c) to (e): National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) has fixed the ceiling prices of 131 anti-cancer scheduled formulations included in the Scheduled-I of DPCO, 2013 (under NLEM 2015 and 2022). Further, the NPPA, vide order S.O. 1041(E) dated 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 has put a cap on Trade Margin of 42 select non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines under 'Trade Margin Rationalization' Approach. By this approach, the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of 526 brands of these medicines have been reduced by up to 90%. This move has resulted in annual savings of around Rs. 984 crore to the

patients. The details of revised prices are available on the website of the NPPA, i.e., [nppaindia.nic.in](http://nppaindia.nic.in).

(f): The government ensures that the scheduled drugs for cancer are not sold above their ceiling price fixed by NPPA and non-scheduled drugs do not increase MRP beyond 10 percent on annualized basis. DPCO, 2013 provide for deposition of overcharge amount by the manufacturers in case of default in implementing the provisions of this Order.

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