

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5678
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2003
PRICES OF CANCER DRUGS
GADDAM GANGA REDDY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any mechanism to regulate the prohibitive prices of majority of imported drugs to treat cancer; and
(b) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b): The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes/revises the prices of seventy four scheduled bulkdrugs and medicines based on them as per provisions of Drugs Prices Control Order (DPCO), 1995. Most of the drugs used in the treatment of Cancer are outside price control.

Prices of drugs not under price control are fixed/revised by manufacturers/importers themselves, keeping in view various factors like cost of production, landed cost of import, marketing cost, trade margins etc. NPPA also monitors the prices of medicine which are outside price control. Wherever abnormal increase in the prices are noticed, NPPA takes appropriate action under the provisions of DPCO, 1995.

The Government has totally delicensed pharmaceutical sector with a view to improving availability of medicines at reasonable prices, allowing market forces to operate leading to increased investment and production and promotion of competition.