

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2297
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2010
AVAILABILITY OF ESSENTIAL LIFE SAVING DRUGS
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Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey or study throughout the country regarding easy availability of essential and life saving drugs to the people;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether 50 to 80 percent of people do not have access to these drugs; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make available drugs easily to common people in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) to (d): Essential and Life saving medicines have not been defined in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO.95). National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has no information regarding any survey or study conducted throughout the country regarding easy availability of essential and life saving medicines to the people. However, NPPA monitors the shortage and availability of the medicines in the country through State Drugs Control Administration. Wherever required, NPPA takes remedial steps for ensuring availability of medicines by impressing upon manufacturers to rush the stocks to the places of shortage.

There are 74 bulk drugs included in the First Schedule of DPCO, 1995 and prices of these drugs and formulations based on them are fixed with an objective to make these drugs affordable. No one can sell any scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA/Government.

As a part of its price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations (which are out of price control). Wherever a price increase of more than 10% per annum is noticed, the concerned manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of formulation in public interest.