

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:213

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2011

HIGHER PRICES OF ANTI-CANCER DRUGS

Ajnala Dr. Rattan Singh

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

- (a) whether the prices of drugs for curing cancer is outside the purview of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995;
- (b) if so, the justification thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the high prices of anti- cancer drugs in the domestic market;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken to reduce the prices of anti-cancer life saving drugs including subjecting such drugs to DPCO so as to make them within the reach of cancer patients?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

A STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED Q.NO.213 (13 POSITION) FOR ANSWER ON 10.3.2011 REGARDING HIGHER PRICES OF ANTI-CANCER DRUGS.

Anti cancer medicines are non scheduled drugs. In respect of drugs - not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995), i.e, non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government / NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed depending on various factors like the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of excipients, cost of R&D, cost of utilities / packing material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc. The inclusion of the drugs under price control as per Para 22.7.2 of the Drug Policy, 1994 was not based on the essentiality criteria but based on market competition and monopoly situation.

As a part of price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of IMS Health and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increases beyond 10% per annum is noticed, subject to prescribed conditions, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

The Pharmaceutical Policy as amended from time to time also envisages making available quality medicines at reasonable prices to the patients.