

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1216  
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2011  
PRICES OF CANCER MEDICINES  
Venugopal Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the study conducted by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) on cancer medicines has revealed huge price variation in different brands of same medicines sold in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the pattern is visible in all the five or six type of cancer drugs where the price difference is over 100 percent as imported medicines are always the most expensive;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to provide these medicines to the common man at reasonable prices?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has undertaken an exercise to examine the MRP of anti cancer medicines being sold in the country. A summary of the price variation of anti-cancer drugs was prepared by NPPA based on the information received from the companies. NPPA was also asked to conduct in depth analysis of all anti cancer drugs included in National List of Essential Medicines(NLEM), which is under examination.

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 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.

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 increase 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.