

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2988  
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2011  
AVAILABILITY OF DRUGS AT REASONABLE PRICES  
Singh Shri Ijyaraj

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

- (a) the mechanism put in place for making the life-saving drugs available to the consumers at reasonable prices in the country;
- (b) whether there is any difference of opinion among various Ministries with regard to control of prices of the said drugs; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) Life-saving drugs are not defined in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). Under the provisions of the DPCO, 1995, the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority(NPPA) fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs / formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO,1995. The NPPA monitors the prices of all formulations including imported scheduled formulations under price control. Under the DPCO, no person can sell any formulation (medicine) of price controlled category to a consumer at a price exceeding the price notified/ approved by the NPPA/ Government. In case, a company is found selling at prices higher than the price notified/ approved by the NPPA/ Government, action is taken against them as per the provisions of the DPCO.

In respect of drugs - not covered under the DPCO, 1995, i.e. non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government /NPPA which may lead to price variation in the prices of similar medicines sold under different brands in respect of non-scheduled formulations.

As a part of price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of ORG IMS 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, the 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 the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

Further, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has launched `Jan Aushadhi Campaign` with the objective of making available medicines at affordable prices for all. Under this campaign less priced quality unbranded generic medicines are made available through Jan Aushadhi Stores. At present 100 Jan Aushadhi Stores are operational as on 16.8.11 in various states in the country.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Question does not arise in view of the reply to part (b) of the question.