

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:532  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011  
HIGHER PRICES OF MEDICINES  
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**Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether generic medicines are available at cheaper prices in the country whereas their branded formulations with the same salt are being sold at 30 to 40 times higher prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether branded paclitaxel Injection meant for the treatment of cancer is being sold on excessively high price in the market;
- (d) if so, the number of branded medicines being sold on high prices openly;
- (e) the steps taken by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority in this regard; and
- (f) the time since when the issue of drug pricing is pending and at which level?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The data regarding prices of generic and branded medicines is not maintained centrally. IMS Health data available with National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) does not contain Maximum Retail Price (MRP) and only contains Price to Retailer (PTR).

Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95), the prices of 74 bulk drugs listed in its First Schedule and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. NPPA fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs / formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 95. No one can sell any scheduled drug / formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA. Therefore, there cannot be price variation in case of scheduled drugs.

In respect of drugs which are not covered under the DPCO, 95 i.e. non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government / NPPA. Hence, there may be variation in the prices of non scheduled drugs of different brands based on same chemical combinations as there is no control on the launch price of these medicines.

(c) Anti-cancer medicines are non-scheduled drugs. As per available information with NPPA, there is variation in the PTR of Paclitaxel sold under different brands e.g. PTR of Mitotax 250 mg (Dr. Reddys Labs), Genexol 100mg(Lupin Labs), Mitotax 100mg(Dr. Reddys Labs), Intaxel 6 mg(Dabur) and Paclitax 6 mg (Intas) are Rs. 7473.20, Rs. 13603.20, Rs. 3176.94, Rs. 7073.79 and Rs. 6065.15 respectively.

(d) & (e) 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, 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.

Based on monitoring of prices of non-scheduled formulation, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 30 formulation packs under para 10(b) and companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 65 formulation packs. Thus in all, prices of 95 packs of non-scheduled drugs have got reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA.

(f) Presently, prices of 74 bulk drugs listed in First Schedule of the DPCO, 1995 and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. Further, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has prepared a draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy 2011(NPPP-2011) based on the criteria of essentiality and requirements as stipulated by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The draft NPPP-2011 has been circulated among the concerned Ministries/Stakeholders. In the draft Policy it is proposed to bring the NLEM-2011 and associated medicines under price control.