GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1686
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2011
PRICES OF IMPORTED DRUGS
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Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had informed that it cannot fix prices of patented drugs and most imported medicines used for treatment of illnesses such as cancer and requested the Government to make necessary law to control price of imported drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering amendments to the drug pricing law to ajthorize NPPA to seek details of landed cost of medicines and fix prices accordingly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (d): Patented drugs are not defined in the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). Under the provisions of the DPCO, 1995, prices of 74 scheduled 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. Anti-cancel1 medicines are non-scheduled drugs, i.e. not covered under DPCO, 1995. In respect of non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers are at liberty to fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government / NPPA.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 Policy envisages bringing the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) -2011 and associated medicines under price control. The draft NPPP-2011 has been circulated among the concerned Ministries/Stakeholders asking them for the feedback.