

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1772
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2009
HIGHER COST OF IMPORTED DRUGS
Rao Shri Kavuri Samba Siva

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

- (a) whether the prices of some imported drugs which are used for the treatment of certain diseases like cancer etc. is very high and the common man is unable to afford such medicines;
- (b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to control the prices of imported drugs and to eliminate the shortage of essential drugs in the country;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to regulate import of essential medicines and drugs and set up marketing mechanism to ensure availability of imported drugs for common man at the affordable prices; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the existing Pharma Pricing Policy, the 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed / revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. These provisions are applicable to all Scheduled formulations including imported drugs unless otherwise exempted. In case of non-Scheduled drugs, including imported drugs, NPPA monitors their price movement based on data furnished monthly by the ORG-IMS with a view to ensure that the annual price rise is not allowed to go beyond 10% (20% before 01-04-2007) per annum subject to certain conditions. No shortage of cancer drugs has been reported.

(c) & (d) A draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006 which, inter alia, includes provisions to ensure availability of essential drugs at affordable prices to the masses, was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11-01-2007. It was decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). The GOM had held four meetings but could not finalize its recommendations.