

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3619
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2009
CHANGE OF BRAND NAMES OF SAME PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar

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

- (a) whether a number of pharmaceutical companies are marketing different brands based on the same active pharmaceutical ingredients to escane the nrQvisions of drug price control;
- (b) if so, the names of the companies which have changed the brand names of the same active pharmaceutical ingredients, in order to avoid monitoring of their sales by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) the prices of 74 bulk drugs, specified in its First Schedule, and the formulations containing any of these Scheduled drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) / Government fixes or revises prices of Scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any scheduled drugs/formulations at a price higher than that fixed by NPPA / Government. Scheduled formulations marketed in different brand names based on same active pharmaceutical ingredients are subject to price control and cannot escape the provisions of DPCO, 1995. Wherever NPPA notices such violations, appropriate action is taken against the concerned companies.

In respect of non-Scheduled drugs, NPPA regularly monitors 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 (20% before 01.04.2007) 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.