

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3703
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2009
COSTLY MEDICINES OF CANCER
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the medicines for cancer in the country are costlier; and
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to control/ minimize the prices of such medicines?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Cancer Medicines are the non-Scheduled medicines and prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc.

In the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006, it has been proposed to exempt all the anti-cancer medicines from all types of Central taxes in order to minimize the prices of such medicines. Further, it has also been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 (subject to certain conditions and exemptions) in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drug (Price Control) Order, 1995. The draft Policy 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 did not make recommendations to the Cabinet.