

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4450  
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2012  
PRICES OF CANCER DRUGS  
Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao

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

- (a) whether the foreign companies manufacturing drugs for treatment of cancer have agreed to reduce the prices of their products;
- (b) if so, the existing prices of drugs like Herceptin and Mabthera and the proposed revised prices;
- (c) whether these drugs are now available in the country at reduced prices; and
- (d) if not, the likely prices of these drugs in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): Anti-Cancer drugs are non-scheduled formulations. In respect of drugs - not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 i.e. non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers are at liberty to fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government / NPPA.. Such prices are normally fixed depending on various factors like the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of excipients, cost of R&D, cost of utilities / packing material, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc.

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. Whenever 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.

As per the IMS-Health data available with National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), MAT value (Moving Annual Turnover) of Mabthera (molecule name Redituxmab) of Dr. Reddy's product is Rs. 5.49 crores and PTR (Price to Retailer) for 500mg (50ml pack) is Rs. 30,766.15 and for 100mg (10ml pack) is Rs. 7691.54. However, there is no information of prices of Herceptin (molecule name Trastuzumab) in the IMS-Health data.

One of the foreign companies manufacturing drugs for treatment of cancer namely M/s Roche has informed that they have entered into an agreement with Indian manufacturing company M/s Emcure Pharmaceuticals Limited to produce its innovative biologics in India. The technology transfer project, through Roche's Global Technical Operations function, will allow for the local manufacture of Roche's medicines such as Trastuzumab and Rituximab.

They have further informed that currently, the products are imported and distributed by Taksal Pharma Pvt, Ltd (Distributors of Roche). The Distributor's existing and proposed prices of the products are as under:-

(Price in Rupees)

Current Prices      Proposed New Prices

Product Name	MRP (Inclusive of Price to Patient VAT) Rs.	(Excluding VAT)	MRP (Inclusive Price to Patient of VAT)	(Excluding VAT)
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- |                       |          |        |        |        |
|-----------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. Trastuzumab-440 mg | 1,10,700 | 85,715 | 75,000 | 50,000 |
| 2. Rituximab-500mg    | 80,000   | 60,000 | 37,500 | 25,000 |
| 3. Rituximab-100mg    | 16,000   | 12,000 | 7,500  | 5,000  |

(The injection Rituximab is also available as Biosimilar from Dr. Reddy's Labs).

The above proposed new prices are expected to be implemented by Taksal Pharma Pvt Limited in the 3rd quarter of the current year, 2012.

With the introduction of the new prices as mentioned in the table above, the Patients will have the option of availing the `Price to Patient`. The reduction in prices of the aforesaid drugs would be in the range of 32% to 58%.