

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1019
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2012
PROVIDING OF MEDICINES AT CHEAPER RATES
Kashinath Shri Taware Suresh

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

- (a) the efforts made by the Government for providing medicines at cheaper rates to the poor in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps for making available the medicines of meningitis, dengue, kalazar, pneumonia, heart disease; and kidney disease on lower prices;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether these medicines are available at Jan Aushadhi Outlets at lower price; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) As per provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO,1995), the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled by National Pharmaceutical Pricing authority (NPPA). NPPA fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. The NPPA monitors the prices of all formulations including imported scheduled formulations under price control. Under the provisions of DPCO, 1995, no person can sell any scheduled formulation (medicine) to a consumer at a price exceeding the price notified/approved by the NPPA.

Medicines for meningitis, dengue, kalazar, pneumonia, heart disease and kidney disease are non-scheduled formulations. In respect of drugs-not covered under the DPCO, 1995 i.e. non-scheduled drugs, manufactures fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. However, as a part of price-monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. The monthly report of IMS Health and the information furnished by individual manufactures are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum 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.

The Jan Aushadhi Campaign initiated by the Government of India, Department of Pharmaceuticals, in November, 2008, aims to provide quality unbranded generic medicines at affordable prices to all through Jan Aushadhi generic drug store in each district to begin with, wherever the State Governments taking into account their prevailing health policy, extend their support and cooperation in allotting the space in the Government Hospital and also recommend agencies to manage such stores.

(d)&(e) Presently, 319 generic medicines are under the range of supply to the Jan Aushadhi stores, which covers different diseases including meningitis, dengue, pneumonia and heart diseases excluding kalazar and kidney diseases. Efforts to increase the coverage of other diseases with additional medicines is a continuous process. The list of Jan Aushadhi medicines with the minimum retail prices is placed on the website www.janaushadhi.gov.in.