

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:78
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2012
DIFFERENCE IN PRICES OF MEDICINES
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Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a big difference in the prices of generic medicines and the same branded medicines;
- (b) if so, the details of the prices of important medicines in both these categories; and
- (c) the measures being taken to ensure sufficient supply of generic medicines manufactured by the reputed companies to the common people and to see that the doctors prescribe the medicines in generic names?

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 SR1KANT KUMAR JENA)

(a)&(b) The prices of generic medicines sold in the open market are generally at par with the prices of the branded medicines. However, there is a big difference in the prices of generic medicines sold through the Jan Aushadhi Drug stores vis-a-vis the prices of the branded medicines, as would be observed from the following illustration:-

Name of salt	Dosage	Pack	Average Market Price of Branded Medicines (Rs.)	Prices of Generic Medicines sold in Jan Aushadhi drug stores (Rs.)
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Tablet	250 mg	10	55.00	11.10
Ciprofloxacin				

Tablet	500 mg	10	97.00	21.50
Ciprofloxacin				

Tablet	100 mg	10	51.91	3.35
Diclofenac SR				

Tablet	10 mg	10	37.50	2.75
Cetirizine				

Tablet	500 mg	10	13.56	2.45
Paracetamol				

Tablet	100 mg	10	38.66	2.70
Nimesulide				

Cough Syrup	110 ml	33.00	13.30	
bottle				

The generic drugs being sold at the Jan Aushadhi Drug Stores are not only equal in quality but also have the same efficacy and

potency as compared with the much expensive branded medicines. Under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995), Government is mandated to control the prices of 74 bulk Drugs and its formulation as per the provisions of the said Order. National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals also monitors and regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. The monthly reports 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 voluntary failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of formulation in public interest. The list of price of generic medicines and the same branded medicines is not maintained by the Government.

(c) The Jan Aushadhi Campaign was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals with the main objective to make available generic medicines at affordable prices to all. In so far as supply of generic medicines is concerned, presently all the five Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) namely IDPL, BCPL, RDPL, KAPL & HAL are manufacturing and supplying generic medicines for sale at the Jan Aushadhi Stores. Wherever Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened, the concerned State Governments are issuing instructions/guidelines to their Doctors in the Government Hospitals to prescribe generic medicines. Similar instructions are also reported to have been issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to the Doctors to prescribe medicines in generic names.