

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:89

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2012

CAP ON MAXIMUM PRICES OF ESSENTIAL DRUGS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to put a cap on the maximum price at which the essential drugs can be sold in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the drug manufacturers have been consulted in this regard and if so, their response in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government intends to boost the sale of generic drugs to control the price of essential drugs;and
- (e) if so, the measures taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

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 (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 89 FOR ANSWER ON 29.11-2012 REGARDING CAP ON MAXIMUM PRICES OF ESSENTIAL DRUGS

(a) to (c): The Department of Pharmaceuticals had prepared a draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) based on the criteria of essentiality as per the medicines as under National List of Essential Medicines-2011, as stipulated by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) was circulated among the concerned Ministries/Stakeholders. The draft Policy was also available for comments of any other interested person on the Department's website www.pharmaceuticals.gov.in. The views/inputs received on the draft NPPP-2011 were examined and the matter was placed before the Group of Ministers (GoM). Based on the recommendations of the GoM, National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Policy-2012(NPPP-2012) was formulated and placed before the Cabinet. The Cabinet considered NPPP-2012 in its meeting held on 22.11.2012 and approved the same with certain modifications.

(d): Yes, Sir.

(e): The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, had launched `Jan Aushadhi Campaign` in November, 2008, under which Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug Stores are being opened in the Government Hospitals to make available (unbranded) quality Generic medicines at much affordable prices to all by way of supply of medicines through Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). Under this campaign, at least one Jan Aushadhi Store in each district is intended to be opened, wherever the State Governments extend their support and cooperation in allotting the space in the Government Hospitals or at any other suitable locations and also identify the agencies amongst Hospitals/NGOs/Charitable/Cooperative/Government Bodies to manage such stores. The first Jan Aushadhi Store was opened under the Jan Aushadhi Campaign in the Civil Hospital, Amritsar in November, 2008 and till 31st October, 2012, 145 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened, spread over in twelve States, namely, Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, including UT of Chandigarh. 319 generic medicines, covering several therapeutic groups, are listed for sale through the Jan Aushadhi Stores. In terms of value, Rs. 9,02,74,091/- worth of medicines have been sold through these stores till October, 2012.