

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4550  
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2012  
PRICING OF DRUGS  
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

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

- (a) whether the Government is taking any steps to control the prices of drugs and to promote the use of low-cost generic drugs; and  
(b) 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) & (b) One of the main objectives of the Department of Pharmaceuticals is to ensure availability of quality medicines at affordable prices to all. Under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995, Government is mandated to control the prices of 74 bulk Drugs and its formulation as per the provision 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 of 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 DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of formulation in public interest.

In order to provide further relief to the common man in the area of healthcare to make available quality medicines, particularly the generic version, at an affordable price to all, a countrywide campaign in the name of `Jan Aushadhi Campaign` was initiated by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in collaboration with the State Governments, by way of opening up of Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug Stores in the Governments` Hospitals with supply of medicines through the Central Pharma Public Sector Units. Under this campaign, it is intended to open at least one Jan Aushadhi Store in every district of the country to begin with and to open more and more of such stores wherever the State Governments taking into account their prevailing Health Policy extend active support and cooperation in allotting the space in Government Hospitals or other suitable locations and also identifying the agencies amongst NGOs, Charitable/Cooperative/Hospitals and Government bodies, to manage such stores. So far, 146 stores have been opened (upto 30.11.2012) in the country spread into twelve (12) States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Jharkhand and UT of Chandigar