

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4473
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2012
PRICE OF DRUGS
Singh Shri Ilyaraj ;Sinh Dr. Sanjay

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

- (a) whether the Government has noticed that drug manufacturer companies are fixing the prices of Nimesulide, Cetrizeine and Nimesulide Paracetamol (Generic) tablets more than ten to fifteen times the actual cost;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the reasons for not taking action as per the provisions against the drug manufacturing companies for fixing the prices of medicines arbitrarily?

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) Nimesulide, Cetrizeine and Nimesulide Paracetamol (Generic) are 'non-scheduled' drugs. In respect of drugs not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO.95) i.e. non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government / National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) . In respect of non scheduled formulations there is no control on the launch price of the formulations.

As a part of price-monitoring activity, however; NPPA regularly examines the movement in 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.