

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:998
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2012
ACCESSIBILITY OF MEDICINES
Jagannath Dr. M.

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any study regarding the impact of Drugs (Prices Control), Order, 1995 on the accessibility of medicines in small towns;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken by the Government to ensure that all the medicines are available at an affordable price in all the cities and towns of the country ?

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): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): The National Pharmaceutical Pricing authority (NPPA), as an ongoing & regular exercise, monitors the availability (shortage) of drugs in the country through Drugs Control Administration of State Governments. Whenever shortage is reported by the State Drug Controllers or comes to its notice otherwise, NPPA takes remedial steps for ensuring availability of drugs by impressing upon manufacturers to rush the stocks to the places of shortage. The shortages reported are the brand specific and in most cases equivalent substitutes are available in the market.

NPPA ensures that drugs / medicines are available at all times to the consumers at affordable and reasonable prices by way of fixation and revision of prices of the scheduled drugs and the formulations containing any of the scheduled bulk drug, monitoring of prices of decontrolled drugs and enforcing the provisions of DPCO.95,

In respect of drugs not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 i.e. non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers 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 reports of IMS Health and the information furnished by individual manufacturers 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.

Further, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has launched `Jan Aushadhi Campaign` with the objective of making available medicines at affordable prices for all. Under this campaign less priced quality unbranded generic medicines are made available through Jan Aushadhi Stores. 145 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened in different States/UTs in the country as on 31.10.2012.