

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1687
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013
PRICES OF LIFE SAVING DRUGS
Deka Shri Ramen;Patil Shri A.T. Nana

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to control the prices of 348 life saving drugs in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the price control formula is in the interest of drug manufacturing companies and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to control the prices of life saving drugs including allopathic drugs; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken/being taken to curb marketing of spurious drugs in 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) to (d) The Department of Pharmaceuticals has notified the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy-2012 under which the prices of National List of Essential Medicines-2011 are to be controlled & regulated. The objective is to put in place a regulatory framework for pricing of drugs so as to ensure availability of required medicines – "essential medicines" – at reasonable prices even while providing sufficient opportunity for innovation and competition to support the growth of industry, thereby meeting the goals of employment and shared economic well being for all.

(e) As per the recommendations of the Mashelkar Committee, the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 was amended by the Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008 for enhancing the penalties in the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 so as to help tackle the problem of spurious and adulterated drugs. The salient features of the amended provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 are as follows:

- (a) Maximum penalty life imprisonment and fine of Rs. 10 lakhs or 3 times the value of the confiscated goods, whichever is more.
- (b) Some of the offences cognizable and non-bailable;
- (c) Besides officers from the Drug Controller's Office, other gazetted officers also authorised to launch prosecution under the Act;
- (d) Specially designated courts for trial of offences covered under the Act;
- (e) Provision for compounding of minor offences.