

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4001

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013

PRICES OF DRUGS

Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Tudu Shri Laxman

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

- (a) the details of the existing mechanism with regard to control of prices of drugs;
- (b) whether any instances of opposition to keep the prices of drugs under control have come to the notice of the Union Government;
- (c) if so, the manner in which the Government has safeguarded the interests of the poor people; and
- (d) the other steps taken by the Government to ensure the affordability of drugs for the common people 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) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices & Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995), the prices of 74 bulk drugs listed in its First Schedule and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs / formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. In respect of drugs - not covered under the DPCO, 1995 i.e. non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government / NPPA. However, the trend in prices of non-scheduled drugs is monitored and suitable action is taken by NPPA where price increase is more than 10% in a period of one year on moving basis.

(b) to (d) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy-2012 (NPPP-2012) has been notified on 07.12.2012. As per the provisions of NPPP-2012, all the manufacturers/importers manufacturing/ importing the medicines as specified under National List of Essential Medicines, 2011 (NLEM-2011) shall be under the purview of price control. The objective of NPPP-2012 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.

Further, in order to provide relief to the common man in the area of healthcare, a countrywide campaign in the name of 'Jan Aushadhi Campaign' has been initiated by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, in collaboration with the State Governments, by way of opening up of Jan Aushadhi Generic Stores in the Government Hospitals to make available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all. As on 28.2.2013, 149 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened in different States/UTs in the country.

As informed by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, during the 12th Five Year Plan, the Central Government has envisaged an initiative for free supply of essential medicines in public health facilities in the country with the aim to provide affordable health care to the people. A sum of Rs. 16000 crore has been approved for the scheme for the 12th Plan period.