

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5002

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2013

RISE IN PRICES OF MEDICINES LIFE SAVING DRUGS

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

- (a) whether the prices of medicines/life saving drugs have risen during the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the percentage increase in the prices of medicines/life saving drugs during the current year when compared to the last year;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to check this price rise;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to set up any task force to review the prices of these drugs; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) to (c): There is no classification as 'Life saving drugs' in Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). As per IMS Health data available with NPPA, the prices of medicines by and large have remained stable during current year. The details are given in Annexure-I.

(d) : Under the provisions of the DPCO, 1995 the prices of 74 scheduled bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. NPPA fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs / formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. Under the provisions of DPCO, 1995, no person is authorized to sell any scheduled formulation (medicine) to a consumer at a price exceeding the price notified / approved by the NPPA/Government.

In respect of drugs not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 i.e. non-scheduled drugs, manufactures 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 manufactures 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 National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy-2012 (NPPP-2012) has been notified on 07.12.2012. As per the provisions of the NPPP-2012, the medicines of strength and dosage forms as specified in National List of Essential Medicines, 2011 (NLEM 2011) shall be under price control.

(e) & (f): There is no proposal to set up any task force to review the prices of drugs.