

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2901

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2013

SHORTAGE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRUGS

Alagiri Shri S. ;Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government monitors and identify the shortage and availability of drugs on the basis of reports received from the State Drugs Control Administration and companies as well as individuals;
- (b) if so, the details of reports received during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of action taken by the Government during the above period along with the outcome thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government/National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority is keeping a check on the prices of drugs/medicines in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details of the criteria adopted for the purpose along with the details of price checking carried out during the said period?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) regularly 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 (SDCs) 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 wherever reported in the past were found to be mostly brand specific and in such cases equivalent substitutes were available in the market. Presently, there is no case of regular shortage reported by the SDCs to NPPA.

(d) to (e): Government has notified the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) on 15th May 2013 in supersession of DPCO, 1995. All the medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines 2011 have been included in the first schedule of DPCO, 2013 and brought under price control. Of these, NPPA has already notified the ceiling prices in respect of 291 medicines under provisions of the said order.

The manufacturers of mentioned scheduled formulations having maximum retail price higher than the ceiling price are required to revise the MRP to an amount not exceeding the ceiling price plus local taxes, wherever applicable within a period of 45 days from the date of price notification by NPPA in accordance with paragraph 13 (1) and 24 of the DPCO, 2013.

NPPA carry out the enforcement activity through purchase of samples from the market, complaints received from State Drug Controllers and price list in Form-V of DPCO, 2013 submitted by the companies. During last three years, 553, 559 and 626 number of packs were purchased from the market and analyzed to identify the cases of overcharging/non-compliance of the notified prices.