

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2943  
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2013  
PRICES OF BRANDED MEDICINES  
Singh Shri Uday Pratap

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

- (a) the brands that are based on each Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) available in the country;
- (b) the difference in the prices of these branded medicines;
- (c) whether there is any difference in the quality and efficacy of the medicine vis-a-vis pharmacopeial medicines;
- (d) the difference in excise duty that is applicable on branded versus pharmacopeial medicines; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the prices of medicines in the country?

**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) : All the medicines specified in National List of Essential Medicines-2011 (NLEM-2011) are included in the first schedule of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). The information regarding brands based on each Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient is not being maintained centrally by the government.
- (b) : While working out the ceiling price of these medicines under DPCO, 2013, inter- brand variation in the prices of essential medicines was observed.
- (c) :All the drugs manufactured/marketed in the country are required to comply with the standards specified under Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder.
- (d) : For the present, there is no difference in the excise duty applicable in respect of branded versus Pharmacopeial medicines.
- (e) : All the existing manufactures of scheduled formulations, selling the branded or generic or both the versions of scheduled formulations at a price higher than the ceiling price (plus local taxes as applicable) so fixed and notified by the Government, shall revise the prices of all such formulations downward not exceeding the ceiling price (plus local taxes as applicable). All the existing manufactures of scheduled formulations, selling the branded or generic or both the versions of scheduled formulations at a price lower than the ceiling price (plus local taxes as applicable) so fixed and notified by the Government shall maintain their existing maximum retail price. NPPA has so far notified the ceiling prices for 300 formulations as per the provision of DPCO, 2013.