

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:411

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013

VARIATION IN PRICES OF BRANDED AND GENERIC DRUGS

Lal Shri Kirodi

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

(a) whether there is a huge difference in the prices of non-branded generic medicines being sold at the Jan Aushadhi Stores (JAS) and that of branded medicines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the difference between the prices of non-branded generic medicines being sold by the JAS in comparison to the prices of branded medicines being sold in the open market in various parts of the country along with the total number of medicines and formulations coming under the ambit of Drugs (Price & Control) Order, 1995 and those falling out of it?

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) & (b): Yes Sir. There is a huge difference in the prices of non-branded generic medicines being sold at the Jan Aushadhi Stores (JAS) and the prices of branded medicines sold in the open market in the country. This is corroborated by the following illustration:

Name of salt	Dosage	Pack	Average	Prices of Generic	
Market	Medicines sold		Price of	in Jan Aushadhi	Difference
Branded	Outlets		Medicines	(Rs.)	
(Rs.)					
Antibiotic:	250 mg	10	54.00	11.10	5 times higher
Ciprofloxacin					
Pain Killer:	100 mg	10	51.91	3.35	15.5 times higher
Diclofenac SR					
Common Cold:	10 mg	10	37.50	2.75	13.5 times higher
Cetirizine					
Fever:	500 mg	10	13.56	2.45	5.5 times higher
Paracetamol					
Pain & Fever	100 mg	10	38.66	2.70	14.3 times higher
Nimesulide					
Cough Syrup	110 ml	33.00	13.30		2.5 times higher
bottle					

The prices of branded medicines are generally higher than the prices of equivalent generic medicines due to promotional efforts made in selling of such products. Besides some branded drugs enjoy patent protection and a number of drugs are not covered under the regulation through the Drug Prices Control Orders. In the case of generic drugs sold at Jan Aushadhi Stores, the medicines are directly supplied through stockists/CPSUs at actual cost plus limited margins. It is a conscious decision of the Government to keep the prices of the medicines at affordable levels for the benefit of all.

(c) An indicative list showing the difference between the prices of non-branded generic medicines sold at Jan Aushadhi stores and branded medicines has been mentioned in the reply to part (a) and (b) above. Under the provisions of DPCO, 1995, the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs were under Price control.