

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2042
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013
SALE OF MEDICINES AT ARBITRARY PRICE
Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that medicines are getting out of the reach of the common man due to the present drug policy;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has received complaints that foreign drug companies are selling medicines at arbitrary prices by violating the drug policy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action/steps taken by the Government on such complaints during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to provide medicines to the people at cheaper rates?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) In pursuance of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012 (NPPP-2012). The Government has notified Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). As per para13(2) of the DPCO, 2013, 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. Therefore, the question of medicines getting out of the reach of the common man due to the present drug policy does not arise. Rather, prices of scheduled formulations has been brought down and the details of reduction in the prices of scheduled formulations effected under DPCO, 2013 as compared to the highest price prevailed prior to the announcement of DPCO, 2013 are as follows:

% reduction with respect No. of drugs
to Maximum Price

0<= 5% 20

5<=10% 31

10<=15% 43

15<=20% 36

20<=25% 56

25<=30%	38
30<=35%	26
35<=40%	31
Above 40%	106
Total	387

(c) & (d) No specific complaint that foreign drug companies are selling medicines at arbitrary prices by violating drug policy has been received.

(e) All the medicines specified in the NLEM-2011 (National List of Essential Medicines) have been included in the first schedule of DPCO, 2013 and brought under price control. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has already notified the ceiling prices in respect of 387 essential medicines under provisions of the said order. Further, for making available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all the Government launched 'Jan Aushadhi Campaign' in November, 2008 by way of opening up Jan Aushadhi Drug Stores. Since, November, 2008, 158 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened in various parts of the country, out of which 76 are functional. A New Business Plan has been approved particularly to address the shortcomings and challenges identified in scaling up the activities.