

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3828
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014
INCLUSION OF MEDICINES IN SCHEDULE DRUGS LIST
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Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to include more medicines in the list of schedule drugs keeping in view the rising prices of medicines and profiteering by pharmaceutical companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to promote the sale of generic medicines by putting a tab on the production of branded medicines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to promote generic drugs in the country?

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) to (b) Drug Price Control Order (DPCO)-2013 has been notified in May, 2013 where under medicines of dosages and strength as specified under National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2011 have been brought under price control. The revision of NLEM for the purpose of price control is a dynamic process and any drug can be added in NLEM in public interest under Drug Price Control Order on the recommendation of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(c) to (e) The Government has been providing fiscal and non-fiscal benefit to the Indian pharmaceutical sector mainly generic medicine manufacturers, like Excise Free Zones, Tax benefit on Research and Development Activities, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises etc. 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 of Jan Aushadhi Drug Stores. Since November, 2008, 162 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened in various parts of the country, out of which 83 are functional. A new Business Plan has been approved particularly to address the shortcomings and challenges identified in scaling up the activities.