

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3969  
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014  
SALE OF MEDICINES  
Vishwanath Shri Adagur H

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

- (a) the salient features of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012;
- (b) whether drugs/medicines listed under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) are reportedly being sold at exorbitant price by some of the Multi National Companies (MNCs);
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto including the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the MNCs involved in such activity;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to include cancer drugs under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 2013 as a part of the new NLEM; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to ensure affordability of cancer 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) The Department of Pharmaceuticals has notified the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy (NPPP)-2012 on 07.12.2012. The salient features of NPPP-2012 are as under:

# The regulation of prices of drugs is on the basis of essentiality of drugs as specified under National List of Essential Medicines(NLEM)-2011.

# The regulation of prices of drugs is on the basis of regulating the prices of formulations only.

# The regulation of prices of drugs is on the basis of fixing the ceiling price of formulations through Market Based Pricing(MBP).

(b) The Government regularly monitors the prices of scheduled and non-scheduled formulations under provisions of Drug Price Control Order (DPCO), 2013 through National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). No specific complaint against foreign medicine companies regarding arbitrary sale of medicines at exorbitant prices in violation of DPCO, 2013 has been received.

(c) In the light of (b) above, does not arise.

(d) and (e) All the medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines 2011 (NLEM) have been included in the first schedule of DPCO, 2013 and brought under price control. NLEM also includes 33 cancer drugs in the specified dosage and strength. 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.