

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1656  
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2014  
DRUGS UNDER PRICE CONTROL  
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

- (a) whether drugs for cancer including antibiotics are very costly in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the number of drugs covered under the price control at present;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to further extend the coverage of price control;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be made;
- (e) whether the method of pricing of drugs is not rational and if so, the reason therefor; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to fix the price of medicines on the basis of manufacturing cost of medicines instead of average price of medicines available in the market and if so, the time by which it is likely to be done and if not, the reason therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) to (d): All the medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines, 2011 (NLEM, 2011) have been included in Schedule 1 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) which contains 348 drugs covering 680 formulations which also include some drugs for cancer and antibiotics. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has notified prices of 440 scheduled formulations upto 30.6.2014. Significant reduction in prices have been effected on the medicines notified under DPCO, 2013 as compared to the highest price prevalent prior to that which differs from formulation to formulation.

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), an independent body of experts under this Department, has been delegated the power under DPCO, 2013 to fix the ceiling price or retail price of any drug. NPPA has also fixed the prices of anti-diabetic and cardiovascular medicines in respect of 108 non-scheduled formulations on 10.7.2014.

(e) & (f): NPPA fixes the prices of scheduled medicines as per the provisions /methodology provided in DPCO, 2013 based on market based data.