

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:150

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2015

DRUG PRICE MONITORING CELLS

Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh;Singh Shri Rajveer (Raju Bhaiya)

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up drug price monitoring cells across the country to keep a close watch on price movements, collections, monitoring of availability of drugs etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; (C) whether the Government has held any consultation with State Governments and State Drug Controllers (SDC) for the purpose,
- (d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments and SDC thereto; and
- (e) the present status of the said proposal and the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the consumers/patients from being overcharged on medicines?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in which NPPA has proposed for revision/modification of the existing Plan Scheme of Consumer Awareness and Publicity through Print, Electronic and Other Media.

The proposal Inter-alia, has a component for Setting up Consumer Awareness, Price Monitoring and Resource Units at the States/ Union Territories with the objective of forging better linkages with the State Drug Controllers.

The Units are expected to provide necessary technical assistance to the State Drug Controllers and NPPA towards monitoring the notified prices of medicines, price movement of scheduled/ non-scheduled medicines, collection and compilation of market based data of scheduled/ non-scheduled medicines, conducting training, seminars and workshops at the State and District levels for consumer awareness and publicity covering aspects relating availability of scheduled and non-scheduled medicines at reasonable prices, care to be taken while purchasing the medicines from the chemists/ retailers, availability of alternative cheaper medicines, role and function of NPPA, etc.

(c) to (d): Comments and suggestions were sought in various meetings held with the State Drug Controllers (SDCs). Most of the SDCs have In-principle supported the proposal for setting up the units at the States/ UTs level. State Governments were also consulted and 6 (six) States namely, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Telengana and Trlpura have so far given their support to the proposal.

(e): The proposal is yet to be placed before the appropriate committee for approval.