

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:446

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014

REGARDING RISE IN PRICES OF DRUGS

Lokhande Shri Sadashiv Kisan;Mani Shri Jose K.;Nete Shri Ashok Mahadeorao

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

- (a) whether inordinate increase has been made in the prices of certain drugs/lifesaving drugs such as cancer, diabetes and medicines for HIV patients in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken to curb /control/reduce the prices of drugs during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the percentage of increase made in the prices of each drug;
- (d) whether the Government has set up/proposes to set up any high powered Committee for reviewing the price control mechanism of drugs;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and

Answer

MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a)to (c): The Government has notified Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) on 15.05.2013. The list of medicines specified in the 'National List of Essential Medicines, 2011 (NLEM)' included in the First Schedule of DPCO, 2013

(b) also covers drugs used in the treatment of cancer, diabetes and medicines for HIV patients. Ceiling price for 489 medicines have been fixed under provision of DPCO, 2013. No person is authorized to sell any such formulation to any consumer at a price exceeding the ceiling price fixed by the NPPA. Also, the existing manufactures of these scheduled formulations selling at a price lower than the ceiling price so fixed by the NPPA are required to maintain their existing maximum retail price with the annual increase in maximum retail price as per the increase in the wholesale price index with respect to previous year. In respect of other medicines not covered under scheduled category of DPCO, 2013, the manufacturers are allowed to increase in maximum retail price upto 10 percent annually. As such, there is no specific information available regarding inordinate increase in the price of Life Saving drugs.

(d) &(e): No, Sir.