

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS**

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4717
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28th MARCH, 2025

Prices of Essential Medicines

†4717. Shri Balya Mama Suresh Gopinath Mhatre:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that the prices of essential medicines have increased in the country which is a matter of concern for the public;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any steps to stop the growing monopoly of corporate companies in the pharmaceutical industry, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is investigating artificially created shortage of drugs and black marketing thereof in the pharma sector, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the number of people benefited from the Government's Jan Aushadhi Yojana so far, State-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) and (b): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) notifies the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), from time to time, which is included in Schedule-I of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). The NLEM, 2022 was notified by MoHFW on 13.09.2022 and was duly incorporated in the revised Schedule-I of the DPCO, 2013. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) is mandated to fix the ceiling prices for the medicines included in revised Schedule-I of DPCO 2013 as per the provisions of DPCO, 2013. The average price reduction due to refixation of prices under the NLEM, 2022 is about 17%, leading to annual savings of approximately ₹3,788 crore to patients. Further, as per the provisions of DPCO, 2013, the ceiling prices of scheduled medicines are revised annually on the basis of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (All commodities) for the preceding calendar year, on or before the 1st of April of every year. The ceiling prices of scheduled medicines for the financial year 2024-25 were increased by 0.00551% with effect from 1.4.2024, based on annual change in WPI (All commodities).

(c): The Department is not in receipt of any report regarding such monopoly.

(d): The availability of medicines is regularly monitored by the NPPA mainly through Drugs Control Administration of State Governments, Price Monitoring Resource Units (PMRUs), etc.

NPPA has informed that it is not in receipt of any report regarding such artificially created shortage of drugs or black marketing thereof.

(e): It is estimated that on an average of 10 to 12 lakh people visit Jan Aushadhi Kendras daily and avail the benefits of quality medicine at cheaper rates. State- and Union-territory-wise data in this regard is not centrally maintained.
