

### **Need to fix MRP of Generic medicines at affordable rates- Laid**

**SHRI ESWARASAMY K. (POLLACHI):** Generic Medicines are promoted with an intention to make them available at cheaper rates to the public. They do not bear extra costs like free samples to doctors, expiry/breakage and promotion done through Medical Representatives. As such, their landing cost upto the Stockist level is very low in comparison to Ethical Medicines. Since there is no control over the MRP, the companies keep it abnormally high in order to attract their end point sellers, the retailers. A study made on price lists of various drug companies revealed that the MRP of these Medicines is kept 5 times to 10 times more than the Stockist price. While selling to customers the retailers sometimes give discount so as to attract them while the dispensing Doctors and Private Hospital Outlets sell these Medicines on MRP and earning huge profits. Jan Aushadhi shops sell medicines at a much lower cost than MRP. It is a big relief. But these Jan Aushadi stores cannot meet the demand of a wide range of medicines with their limited number, area of coverage and stock availability. Moreover, when the Govt can supply medicines at a much lower MRP, it is a matter of great concern why these drug companies are allowed to fix the MRP of medicines abnormally high by making the cost of the treatment by poor patients very costly. Therefore, I urge upon the Govt that if it really wants to help the poor patients of this country with Generic Medicines it should take steps to bring their MRP at cost effective rates.