

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1880

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2000

INCREASE IN DRUG PRICE BY PHARMA COMPANIES

A. VENKATESH NAIK;AVTAR SINGH BHADANA;BALIRAM;CHANDRAKANT BHURAO KHAIRE;DALPAT SINGH PARASTE;DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;M.V.V.S MURTHI;RAM JEEVAN SINGH;SHIVAJI MANE;VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

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

- (a): whether most of the Pharma Companies have been found involved in unhealthy trade practices including charging of high prices for generic drug and resorting to unreasonable increase in drug prices as reported in Times of India dated May 25, 2000;
- (b): whether the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority has warned these Pharma companies against such unhealthy trade practices;
- (c): if so, the details thereof;
- (d): the names and action proposed to be taken against the companies found involved in violation of the said guidelines; and
- (e): the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for ensuring availability of generic drugs to the public at reasonable price?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS)

(a) to (d): The news item in the Times of India dated May 25, 2000 mentions 12 medicines, out of which 3 are in the scheduled category of drugs that are under price control. The rest are in the non-scheduled category. The news item does not indicate the selling units of the medicines for which the prices have been mentioned.

The NPPA fixes/revises the prices of scheduled drugs and formulations. The ceiling prices notified for formulations are applicable to all formulations, including those sold under generic names. Cases of overcharging are dealt with under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

(e): The Drug Policy of the Government is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of drugs at reasonable prices.