

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1255

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015

DRUGS UNDER PRICE CONTROL .

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

(a) whether the Government/National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has power/proposes to control/ fix prices of all the essential medicines including those outside the purview of National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM).

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to include more medicines under price control;

(c) whether the Government proposes to reduce the prices of the life saving drugs for treatment of cancer, heart, kidney, diabetes and HIV patients;

(d) if so, the details thereof and indicating the name of medicines/ formulations specified/contained in the list of NLEM which have been under price control; and

(e) the steps taken to promote generic medicines and provide life saving drugs and other medicines to the commonman at affordable prices?

Answer

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

(a & b): Prices of medicines are fixed as per the provisions of DPCO 2013. NPPA has power to fix the price of all essential drugs specified in the NLEM-2011 as contained in the Schedule-1 of DPCO, 2013 and which are under price control. Under Para 19 of the DPCO, 2013. the Government may in case of extra-ordinary circumstances fix the retail price of any drug for a specified period.

(c) & (d): Life saving drugs are not defined under DPCO, 2013- However, NPPA has already fixed the ceiling price in respect of 509 essential medicines out of 680 medicines (628 net medicines) contained in Schedule-I of the DPCO, 2013. List of scheduled medicines for which ceiling prices have been notified also include the drugs used for treatment of cancer, heart, cardiovascular, diabetes and HIV patients. The details of reduction in prices scheduled formulations effected under DPCO, 2013 as compared to the highest price prevailed prior to the announcement of DPCO, 2013 are given as under:

% reduction with respect to Highest No. of drugs prevailing price to retailer	
0<= 5%	51
5<=10%	46
10<=15%	55
15<=20%	44
20<=25%	65
25<=30%	57
30<=35%	30
35<=40%	34
Above 40%	127
	509

The details of medicines / formulations, notified prices for each formulations, therapeutic category as indicated in the NLEM-2011 are available on the NPPA's website.

(e) For making available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all. the Government launched Jan Aushadhi campaign in November. 2008 by way of opening up of Jan Aushadhi drug Stores. Since November, 2008, 176 Jan Aushadhi stores have been opened in various parts of the country, out which 106 are functional.

The Scheme is being revisited to address the shortcomings and challenges identified in scaling up the activities.