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Title: Need to control the increase in prices of life-saving medicines.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): There is a huge hike in the prices of almost all the medicines in our country. It is impossible for the common people to bear the huge burden of any kind of treatment. The prices of life saving medicines for cancer, TB, HIV etc. have become costlier. The monopoly of the drug companies is determining the prices of medicines in the market. Though Government has formulated a drugs policy it is not at all effective and helpful. The basic norms for fixing prices of medicines are defective. It helps the monopoly of companies to increase the prices of medicines. So it is very difficult for the poor people to bear the cost of medicine. Therefore, I request the Government to take immediate steps to control the prices of medicines and also take action against companies which illegally raise the prices of medicines.