

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2578
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st December, 2021

Medicines included in the list of essential medicines

2578 # Shri Naresh Bansal:

Will the Minister of **Chemicals and Fertilizers** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the medicines included in the list of essential medicines;
- (b) whether it is a fact that more than eighty per cent of expensive medicines are included in the list of essential medicines due to which the poor and downtrodden people got great convenience; and
- (c) if so, the action plan prepared by the Ministry to include expensive medicines in the national list of essential medicines?

ANSWER

**MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(Dr. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

(a): The details of medicines included in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2015 are available on the website of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) i.e. www.cdSCO.gov.in. NLEM, 2015 included 376 medicines under 30 different therapeutic categories. Subsequently, coronary stents were also included in the list in the year 2016.

(b): The criteria adopted for inclusion of a medicine in NLEM by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (M/o H&FW), amongst others, includes its usefulness in prevention/treatment of diseases which are public health problems in India, have proven efficacy & safety profile and comparative cost effectiveness. The essential medicines included in NLEM are incorporated as Schedule-I of the Drug Prices Control Orders issued from time to time. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals fixes the ceiling price of these scheduled medicines. All manufacturers of scheduled medicines have to sell their products within the ceiling price (plus applicable Goods and Service Tax) fixed by the NPPA. The fixation of ceiling prices of essential medicines helps citizens to get these medicines at an affordable prices.

(c): A Standing National Committee on Medicines (SNCM) was constituted by MoHFW in July, 2018 to review and revise the NLEM. SNCM has recently submitted its Report to MoHFW.
