

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1552
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14th March, 2023

Price hike of scheduled drugs

1552 Shri Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya:

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

- (a) whether India's Drug Pricing Authority allowed a price hike of 10.7 per cent for scheduled drugs that are under price control on March 28th, 2022;
- (b) whether prices have been hiked as per India's drug Pricing Authority's approval of 10.7 per cent and if so, how many Drugs have witnessed the hike in the price;
- (c) whether the hike is in the price of scheduled medicines also applicable for drugs at the Jan Aushadhi Kendras established under PMBJP; and
- (d) if not, the measures taken to retain the price of medicines sold in Jan Aushadhi Kendras under PMBJP after this hike?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA)**

(a) and (b): The ceiling prices of scheduled formulations (branded or generic) included in Schedule-I of DPCO, 2013 are fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals. Under the provisions of DPCO, 2013 annual revision of ceiling prices of scheduled medicines is permissible, based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for all commodities in the preceding year. The annual change in WPI of all commodities with base year 2011-12 works out as 10.76607% during the calendar year 2021 over the corresponding period in 2020. Accordingly, effective from 01.04.2022, the ceiling price of 898 scheduled formulations (of which 889 scheduled formulations fixed under NLEM 2015) were revised based on WPI. The notification showing the list of medicines is available at the website of NPPA, viz., nppaindia.nic.in. This provides for the maximum increase permissible. However, increase in the prices of these drugs by the manufacturers is based on commercial consideration and may be lower or same as permissible increase depending on the market dynamics.

(c) and (d): Under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), dedicated outlets known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) have been opened to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices. All manufacturers of scheduled medicines, including those sold through Jan Aushadhi Kendras, have to sell the same within the ceiling price (as revised from time to time, including based on WPI). However, Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) ensures that the prices of medicines sold through the Kendras are at least 50% cheaper than that of branded medicines available in the open market.
