

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

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2383  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2023

**Availability of Cancer treatment medicines**

**2383 Shri Sujeet Kumar:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that as per the Report of National Cancer Registry Programme, 2020, India's cancer burden could increase from 1.39 million during this year to 1.57 million in 2025;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure wider availability of cancer treatment medicines; and
- (c) the comparison of the ceiling price of scheduled anti cancer medicine from the year 2020 to 2022?

**ANSWER**

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

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(a): Yes Sir.

(b): The wider availability of cancer treatment medicines are ensured by extending either free or highly subsidized treatment of Cancer for the poor in Government Hospitals; treatment of Cancers under Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY); making available quality generic medicines including those for cancer at affordable prices to all, under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP); and setting up of Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) Pharmacy stores in some hospitals/institutions, to make available Cancer drugs at a substantial discount vis-à-vis the Maximum Retail Price. Besides, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) fixes the ceiling prices of scheduled anti-cancer scheduled formulations including formulations used in palliative care that are included in Schedule-I of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) to ensure their availability at reasonable rates. Also, NPPA vide order S.O. 1041(E) dated 27th February, 2019, has put a cap on Trade Margin of 42 selected non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines on pilot basis under 'Trade Margin Rationalization' approach. Under this approach, the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of 526 brands of anti-cancer medicines have been reduced by upto 90%.

(c): As per provisions of DPCO, 2013, annual revision of ceiling prices of scheduled medicines is permissible based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for all commodities for the preceding calendar year. Accordingly, based on the WPI, an increase in the ceiling price of up to 0.536% for the year 2021 and 10.766% for the year 2022 was permitted for all scheduled medicines including scheduled anti-cancer medicine included in NLEM, 2015. However, the manufacturers generally decide the market price of their drugs based on commercial considerations and market dynamics, within the approved increase in ceiling and may or may not avail of the full increase permissible.

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