

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 503
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07th February, 2023

Reduction in the prices of life saving drugs

**503 Smt. Rajani Ashokrao Patil:
Dr. Fauzia Khan: Shri Elamaram Kareem:**

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

- (a) whether Government has considered reducing the prices of life saving drugs in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, along with the names of the medicines under consideration;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to reduce the prices of life saving drugs in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) notifies the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) which is incorporated as the Schedule-I of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). The formulations under Schedule-I are mentioned according to their therapeutic category. Life-saving drugs are not specifically mentioned in the NLEM. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), fixes the ceiling price of these scheduled medicines specified in the schedule-I of the DPCO, 2013. NPPA fixed ceiling prices of 890 scheduled formulations across various therapeutic category under NLEM, 2015. Further, NPPA has fixed ceiling prices of 400 scheduled formulations under NLEM, 2022, till 03.02.2023. All manufactures of scheduled medicines (branded or generic) have to sell their products within the ceiling price (plus applicable Goods and Service Tax) fixed by the NPPA. Also, as per the DPCO, 2013 the manufacturers of non-scheduled formulations are not permitted to avail increase in the maximum retail price (MRP) beyond 10 per cent of that in the preceding 12 months. Besides fixing ceiling prices of scheduled drugs, NPPA has taken other measures to regulate the prices of drugs which *inter alia* include:

- i. NPPA has fixed the retail price of around 2244 new drugs under DPCO, 2013 till 26.01.2023.
- ii. In 2014, NPPA, capped the MRP of 106 non-scheduled drug formulations under Para 19 of DPCO, 2013 which includes 22 diabetic and 84 cardiovascular drugs.
- iii. Ceiling price of Orthopedic Knee Implants were fixed under Para 19 of DPCO, 2013 in August 2017 in public interest.
- iv. Trade Margin of non-scheduled formulations of 42 select Anti-cancer medicines were capped under "Trade Margin Rationalization" approach, wherein price of above 500

brands of medicines were reduced by up to 90%. This is in addition to 86 scheduled anti-cancer drugs whose ceiling prices have been fixed by NPPA.

- v. NPPA invoked Paragraph 19 of the DPCO, 2013 to regulate the price of Oxygen Concentrators, Pulse Oximeter, Blood Pressure Monitoring Machine, Nebulizer, Digital Thermometer and Glucometer under “Trade Margin Rationalisation” Approach in June 2021 and July 2021.

The details of prices fixed by NPPA is available on the website of NPPA i.e. nppaindia.nic.in.
