

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1293
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1st August, 2023

Cost of medicines

1293 Shri Masthan Rao Beeda:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority allowed a one-time price hike of 50 per cent for three key drugs-ibuprofen, ranitidine, and carbamazepine;
(b) whether the Ministry is also aware that these drugs are used as the first line of treatment and revised prices of bulk quantities would multiply and exceed the concessional rates set for them under 'scheduled drugs'; and
(c) the measures proposed to address this issue?

ANSWER

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

(a): National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) received applications for upward price revision for drugs including ibuprofen, ranitidine and carbamazepine under Para 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 2013 (DPCO, 2013) citing various reasons, like increase in cost of production, mainly on account of increase in prices of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), exchange rate variation, etc. making the manufacturing and marketing of drugs unviable. NPPA took cognizance of these issues and the fact that while ensuring affordability, access to essential drugs cannot be jeopardized and it must remain available to the public at all times. Accordingly, NPPA had revised the ceiling price of a total of nine formulations of three drugs, viz., ibuprofen, ranitidine and carbamazepine vide SO. 2654(E) dated 01.07.2021 by allowing one-time price hike of 50 percent on the extant ceiling price as an exceptional measure under provisions of Para 19 of the DPCO, 2013.

(b) and (c): DoP has notified Revised Schedule-I of DPCO, 2013 on 11.11.2022 based on the National List of Essential Medicines, 2022 (NLEM, 2022) notified by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) on 13.09.2022. As per the provisions of DPCO, 2013 revision of ceiling price are *inter alia* carried out as and when NLEM is revised by MoH&FW. Accordingly, the ceiling prices notified of scheduled formulations of ibuprofen and carbamazepine in respect of which prices were hiked by 50% under NLEM, 2015 were revised and notified under NLEM, 2022. The revised ceiling prices fixed for these drugs were lower than their respective ceiling price under NLEM, 2015 (vide S.O. 1499 (E) dated 30.03.2022). However, Ranitidine is not listed under revised Schedule-I (NLEM, 2022) and hence, its revised ceiling price is not fixed. Further, DPCO 2013 provide for fixing ceiling prices of scheduled drugs, but there is no provision for setting concessional rates for scheduled drugs.
