

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1304
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1st August, 2023

Monitoring of prices of scheduled drugs

1304 Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes, revises and monitors the prices of scheduled drugs under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM); and
- (b) whether it is also a fact that prices for drugs in NLEM allow a 16 per cent margin for retailers; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that the experts have recommended that Government either reduce the 16 per cent margin for retailers or provide subsidy to the retailers/consumers, as the margin is too high at present?

ANSWER

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

(a): Pursuant to notification of the National List of Essential Medicines, 2022 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 13.09.2022, the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) incorporated the same in the revised Schedule-I of Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013 and notified the same on 11.11.2022. There are 388 medicines (including 2 animal vaccines and 2 stents) consisting of about 954 formulations in the revised Schedule-I of the DPCO, 2013. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under DoP has fixed ceiling prices of 915 scheduled formulations till 10.07.2023, out of which ceiling price of 691 scheduled formulations have been fixed under NLEM, 2022.

(b): As per the extant provisions of DPCO, 2013, while fixing ceiling price of scheduled formulations and retail prices of new drugs, sixteen percent of the price to retailer is allowed as margin to retailer.

(c): No, Sir. As per the records available with the Department, no such recommendation has been received.
