

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1877
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th DECEMBER, 2023**

PATIENT'S TREATMENT IN GOLDEN HOUR

1877. SHRI SANJEEV ARORA:

Will the **MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that only around 20 per cent of heart patients get treatment in so so-called golden hour; and
- (b) the steps Government is taking to increase this number and make life saving clot buster drugs cheap?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(PROF. SATYA PAL SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a) and (b) The Management of Acute Coronary Events (MACE) Registry, an ICMR –funded project (yet to be published) has shown that the percentage of ST-Elevated Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) patients reaching hospital within 1 hour of symptom onset were 21.7%, within 2 hours of symptoms onset were 38.5% and within 4 hours of symptom onset were 57.2%.

ST-Elevated Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) was included in National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non- Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD) on 22nd November 2022. Under the programme, the thrombolytic services are provided at Cardiac Care Unit (CCU)/ICU with referral to higher health facilities. Cardiovascular disease patients are getting treatment at various health facilities in the health care delivery system including District Hospitals, Medical Colleges, Central Institutes like AIIMS, Central Government hospitals. The treatment in Government Hospitals is either free or highly subsidized for the poor and needy.

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) fixes the ceiling price of scheduled medicines specified in the first schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). The National List of Essential

Medicines (NLEM) as notified by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) is adopted as the basis for determining essentiality and is incorporated in the First Schedule of DPCO, 2013, which constitutes the list of scheduled medicines. All manufacturers of scheduled medicines have to sell their products within the ceiling price (plus applicable Goods and Service Tax) fixed by the NPPA. Further, DPCO, 2013 allows an annual price rise for scheduled formulations based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI). The formulations under Schedule I of DPCO, 2013 are mentioned according to their therapeutic category. Life-saving clot buster drugs are not specifically mentioned in the NLEM.

However, there is separate therapeutic category for Cardiovascular Medicines. NPPA has fixed ceiling price for 58 formulations under NLEM 2022 and 7 formulations under NLEM 2015 as on 15.12.2023 covered under Cardiovascular Medicines category. Further, in 2014, NPPA capped the MRP of 106 non-scheduled formulations under Para 19 of DPCO 2013 in public interest which includes 84 cardiovascular drugs. The details of prices fixed by NPPA are available on the website of NPPA i.e. nppaindia.nic.in.
