

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 993
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12th December, 2023

Affordability of cancer drugs

993 Shri Sanjeev Arora:

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

- (a) the steps being taken by the Ministry to make cancer drugs cheaper and affordable for all; and
(b) whether there has been instances where same company is selling same salt drug at different prices under different names?

ANSWER

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

(a): National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) fixes the ceiling price of medicines specified in the Schedule-I of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). All manufacturers 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. NPPA has fixed the ceiling price of 131 anti-cancer scheduled formulations included in Schedule-I of the DPCO, 2013 under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) 2015 and NLEM, 2022. Ceiling prices of 112 formulations fixed under NLEM, 2022 resulted in reduction of around 22.69% in ceiling price of these 112 anti-cancer formulations.

Also, NPPA vide order S.O. 1041 (E) dated 27th February 2019, put a cap of 30% Trade Margin on 42 selected non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines under the 'Trade Margin Rationalization' approach. This led to the reduction in the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of 526 brands of these medicines by up to 90% and resulted in annual savings of around Rs. 984 crores to the patients.

Further, as per the provisions of DPCO the ceiling price of scheduled medicines is revised annually on the basis of the Wholesale Price Index. In the case of non-scheduled formulation, no manufacturers can increase MRP by more than 10% of MRP during the preceding 12 months.

(b): Yes, Sir.
