

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

RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*159  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2024

**Reduction in prices of life saving drugs**

**159 Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla:**

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**

**THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS  
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

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(a) to (d):      A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement referred to in reply to the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 159 (9th POSITION) for answer on 10.12.2024 raised by Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla regarding “Reduction in prices of life saving drugs”**

(a) to (d): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare notifies the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), which is incorporated as the Schedule-I of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, fixes the ceiling price of these scheduled medicines in accordance with the provisions of DPCO, 2013. All manufactures of scheduled medicines have to sell their products within the ceiling price (plus applicable Goods and Service Tax) fixed by the NPPA. As on 04.12.2024, Ceiling Prices of 926 scheduled formulations have been fixed by NPPA under the provisions of DPCO, 2013.

In addition, NPPA also fixes the retail price of new drug as defined in DPCO 2013. The retail price of a new drug is applicable to the applicant manufacturer and they cannot sell the new drug above the price notified by the NPPA. As on 04.12.2024, Retail Price of approx. 3,046 new drugs have been fixed under DPCO, 2013.

In case of non-scheduled formulations, a manufacturer is at liberty to fix the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of the drugs launched by it. However, as per the DPCO 2013, no manufacturer can increase MRP of non-scheduled drug by more than 10% during preceding 12 months.

In addition, the NPPA has taken over measures to regulate the prices of drugs using special provisions under Para 19 of DPCO, 2013 which inter alia include:

- (i) NPPA capped the MRP of 106 non-scheduled drug formulations in 2014 which includes 22 diabetic and 84 cardiovascular drugs on account of high inter brand variation for the same medicine.
- (ii) As a patient centric measure, ceiling price of Orthopaedic Knee Implants were fixed in August 2017.
- (iii) In February, 2019, Trade Margin of non-scheduled formulations of 42 select Anti-cancer medicines were capped under “Trade Margin Rationalization” approach, wherein prices of above 500 brands of medicines were reduced by average around 50 percent.
- (iv) Price of Oxygen Concentrators, Pulse Oximeter, Blood Pressure Monitoring Machine, Nebulizer, Digital Thermometer and Glucometer were capped 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](http://nppaindia.nic.in)

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