GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2421
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17TH DECEMBER, 2024

Inclusion of critical care medical devices in NLEM

2421 Shri Manoj Kumar Jha:

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

(a) whether Government has considered including other medium and high-end medical devices used in critical care, such as oxygen concentrators, pulse oximeters, blood pressure monitoring machines, nebulizers, digital thermometers and glucometers in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), if so, the details thereof;
(b) the steps being taken by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to take up this matter with the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) for the inclusion of these devices in NLEM, in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and
(c) the actions being pursued by Government to address the pricing and accessibility of critical care medical devices in public interest?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (c): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) notifies the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), which is incorporated as the Schedule-I of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). The Standing National Committee on Medicines (SNCM), constituted by the MoHFW, reviews and revises the NLEM from time to time. 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.

NPPA had capped the trade margin at 70% on Price to Distributor level of Oxygen Concentrators, Pulse Oximeter, Blood Pressure Monitoring Machine, Nebulizer, Digital Thermometer, and Glucometer during Covid-19 pandemic to make these medical devices available at reasonable rates. Further, as per extant provisions of DPCO, 2013, NPPA monitors the Maximum Retail Prices (MRP) of non-scheduled medical devices and ensure that no manufacturer increases the MRP of any medical device by more than ten percent of the MRP during preceding twelve months. Instances of overcharging are dealt by NPPA under the relevant provisions of DPCO, 2013.

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