

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

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 832  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER, 2024

**Increase in prices of key drugs**

**832 Shri Sandosh Kumar P:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the huge increase in the price of major drugs in the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps to control and monitor the price of essential medicines;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

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(a) to (d): Prices of drugs in India are regulated as per the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the aegis of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) fixes the ceiling price of scheduled medicines specified in the first schedule of the DPCO, 2013. All manufacturers of scheduled medicines have to sell their products within the ceiling price (plus applicable Goods and Service Tax) fixed by the NPPA. As on date, the ceiling prices of 926 formulations are effective. The annual increase permitted in the case of Scheduled formulations is up to the level of annual revision in Wholesale Price Index (WPI). In case of non-scheduled formulation, no manufacturers can increase MRP by more than 10% of the MRP during preceding 12 months.

The ceiling prices of scheduled medicines for the year 2024-25 was increased by 0.00551% w.e.f. 01.04.2024 based on annual change in the WPI (all commodities) and as per provisions of DPCO, 2013. This annual increase, based on WPI (all commodities), is the maximum permissible increase in the price of for scheduled drugs, which may or may not be availed by the manufacturers based on market dynamics.

Further, the retail price of new drugs as defined in para 2(1)(u) of DPCO, 2013 are fixed by NPPA for existing manufacturers of scheduled formulations. Upto 21.11.2024, the retail price of 3046 new drugs have been notified under DPCO, 2013 by NPPA.

NPPA monitors the prices of both scheduled and non-scheduled drugs. Monitoring activities are based on references from Price Monitoring Resource Units (PMRUs), State Drugs Controllers (SDCs), market samples, market-based databases, and complaints received through the Pharma Jan Samadhan (PJS) portal, CPGRAMS, and other reliable sources. Instances of overcharging are dealt by NPPA under the relevant provisions of DPCO, 2013.

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