

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *89
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th FEBRUARY, 2025

Retail prices of non-scheduled drugs

89 Shri Shaktisinh Gohil:

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

- (a) the list of scheduled and non-scheduled drugs with their price-to-retailers and price-to-stockists as disclosed by their manufacturers to NPPA;
- (b) whether there is a large price gap between retail prices and the price-to-retailer as well as the price-to-stockist of non-scheduled medicines;
- (c) whether such huge price gap is a burden on the patients because of excessive profit margins; and
- (d) whether the manufacturers are at liberty to set retail prices for non-scheduled medicines at the time of introduction?

ANSWER

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

(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. *89 (14th Position) for answer on 11.2.2025, raised by Shri Shaktisinh Gohil, regarding “Retail prices of non-scheduled drugs”

(a) to (d) The principles for regulation of prices of drugs are laid down by the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Policy, 2012. The key principles of regulation of prices under the said policy are (i) regulation on the basis of essentiality of drugs, (ii) regulation of prices of formulations only, *i.e.*, medicines used by consumers and not the upstream products such as bulk drugs or intermediates, and (iii) regulation through market-based pricing and not cost-based pricing. The Department of Health and Family Welfare notifies the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), based on the report of the Standing National Committee on Medicines.

In accordance with the said policy, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals fixes ceiling prices under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) in respect of the medicines included in NLEM, which are specified in Schedule-I to DPCO, 2013. Manufacturers of scheduled medicines (both branded and generic) are required to sell their products within the ceiling price (plus applicable Goods and Service Tax) fixed by NPPA. All price notifications for the formulations whose prices have been fixed by NPPA are available on its website (www.nppaindia.nic.in).

In case of non-scheduled formulations, while a manufacturer is at liberty to fix the maximum retail price (MRP) of drugs launched by it, a manufacturer is required by DPCO, 2013 to not increase MRP of a non-scheduled drug by more than 10% of MRP during the preceding 12 months. It also requires such manufacturers to issue a price list and supplementary price list, if required, in Form-V (for formulations) or Form-VI (for medical devices) to dealers, State Drugs Controllers and the Government, indicating changes from time to time. Moreover, retailers and dealers are required to display the price list and the supplementary price list, if any, as furnished by the manufacturer or importer, on a conspicuous part of the premises where they carry on business. The information regarding the details of the product, price to distributors, price to retailers, price changes, date from which price revision is effective, etc. are part of the said forms. During the financial year (FY) 2024-25, till 6.2.2025, 1,702 Form-V for 22,301 products have been filed by 314 companies and 354 Form-VI for 11,983 products have been filed by 68 companies on NPPA's online portal for such filing.
