

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 185#
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22nd July, 2025

Notified National List of Essential Medicines

185 # Dr. Bhim Singh:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that an effective control system has been put in place by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to fix the maximum price limit of medicines listed under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) notified by Government so that all manufacturers fix prices within the prescribed limit; and
- (b) whether retail prices of more than 2000 essential medicines have been fixed by Government in the last five years, thereby making affordable and accessible medical facilities available to the poor and general public?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): Yes, sir. The National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), notified by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare from time to time, is incorporated as Schedule-I to the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals fixes the ceiling prices of these scheduled medicines in accordance with the provisions of DPCO, 2013. All manufacturers of scheduled medicines are required to sell their products within the ceiling price (plus applicable local taxes) fixed by the NPPA.

(b): Yes, sir. NPPA fixes the retail price of new drugs, which is defined in paragraph 2(u) of DPCO, 2013 to mean a formulation launched by an existing manufacturer of a drug of specified dosages and strengths as listed in the NLEM by combining the drug with another drug either listed or not listed in NLEM or a formulation launched by changing the strength or dosages or both of the same drug of specified dosages and strengths as listed in NLEM. NPPA has fixed and notified under DPCO, 2013 retail prices of 2295 new drugs during the period from 01.01.2020 to 17.07.2025. Retail prices are applicable to the applicant manufacturer and marketing company, who are required to sell the new drug within the price notified by NPPA.
