

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 263
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JULY, 2026**

REVISION OF THE NATIONAL LIST OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES

263. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

Will the **Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note that the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) has not been revised since 2022, while the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines has been updated twice during the same period;
- (b) whether Government proposes to revise the NLEM to include newer essential medicines, particularly for cancer, supportive care and rare diseases; and
- (c) the timeline for the next revision of the NLEM and the mechanism adopted to ensure its periodic updating?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (c): The NLEM is prepared and revised taking into consideration the country's disease burden, public health priorities, safety, efficacy, cost-effectiveness, contemporary knowledge of use of therapeutic products in health & hygiene of general public, various documents of medicines, availability of medicines including WHO Model List through an established expert consultative mechanism.

Revision of the NLEM, including addition, deletion or modification of medicines, is undertaken from time to time based on the recommendations of the Standing National Committee on Medicines (SNCM), a Government-appointed expert committee. During such revision, medicines across all therapeutic categories, are considered based on the prescribed criteria and available scientific evidence, disease burden, therapeutic advances, safety, efficacy, cost-effectiveness and public health relevance through expert consultations.
