

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2897
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13th March, 2018

Price Capping of Cardiac Stents

2897. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that research and innovation in stents technology and development of improved stents is adversely affected due to the capping in prices of cardiac stents;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether due to the price cap of cardiac stents, hospitals are preferring imported stents which is adversely impacting the indigenous manufacturers of stents;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether hospitals are off setting the reduction in stent prices by increasing the cost of angioplasty and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS;
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)**

(a) & (b): During the Stakeholders' consultations held recently, some cardiac care experts and the industry associations like CII, ASSOCHAM, FICCI, PHDCC and others expressed their opinions that capping the price of cardiac stents may affect research and innovation in stents technology. The group of importers insisted on 'generational incremental improvements' within Drug Eluting Stent (DES) and strongly favored differential pricing based on these incremental innovations for the sake of rewarding investment in R&D and innovation. However, there is lack of evidence to support this claim. On the contrary, Indian coronary stent manufacturers and civil society representatives claimed that the India made stents are not inferior in any manner to imported stents and these are also being exported to different countries.

(c) & (d): National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) does not maintain data related to domestic /imported stents used by hospitals during angioplasty. However, data received from the stent manufacturers and importing companies for the years 2016 and 2017 reveal that there was a clear overall 5% growth in case of stents made in India during the year 2017.

(e): The 'procedure charges' and 'doctors fees' which the hospitals are billing to the patients for angioplasty is said to have increased as per feedback. Notices have been issued to some hospitals.
