

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3938
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20th March, 2018

Life Saving Drugs

†3938. SHRI ALOK SANJAR:

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

- (a) whether life saving drugs are being sold at high prices due to their scarcity in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government receives updates from time to time regarding the stock of life saving drugs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the estimated stock thereof in the country; and
- (e) whether any measures are being taken by the Government for research regarding new life saving drugs?

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): The medicines which are covered under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) announced by Ministry of health & Family Welfare are included in Schedule – I of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) and the ceiling price of these medicines are being fixed by the Government. As such no report regarding selling of drugs at high prices due to scarcity in the country has been received in NPPA recently. Further, the production and availability of scheduled medicines is regularly monitored by the NPPA mainly through Drugs Control Administration of State Governments. Whenever shortage is reported by the State Drug Controllers or when the matter comes to the notice of NPPA, remedial steps are taken for ensuring availability of drug by impressing upon manufacturers to rush the stocks to the places of shortage.

(b): In view of reply to (a) above, occasion does not arise.

(c) & (d): As provided in the DPCO, 2013, the manufacturer of scheduled formulations are required to submit quarterly return (Form III) of the production / import of scheduled formulation and the bulk drug/active pharmaceutical ingredients used in the formulations specified in Schedule - I of the DPCO, 2013. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has developed software, namely Integrated Pharmaceuticals Database Management System (IPDMS) for enabling on-line submission of the data by manufacturer in prescribed Form-III of DPCO, 2013 to NPPA. Whenever a shortage is reported from any part of the country, the Government ensures that the drug is made available to that part of the country. The data on the estimated stock in the country is not maintained by the Department.

(e): The Government is providing financial support for research and development through Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Research Programme (DPRP) run by the Department of Science & Technology. The companies undertaking Research & Development activities are provided income tax benefits. Further, the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013, Para-32(iii) provides exemptions from price control to a manufacturer producing a new drug involving a new delivery system developed through indigenous Research and Development for a period of five years from the date of its market approval in India.
