

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1311
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th December, 2018

Affordable Medicines

1311. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:

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

- (a) whether patients across the country have saved up under the Government's initiative of ensuring affordable, quality medicines for all and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the decision of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to put a price cap on coronary stents has led to an artificial shortage of these stents in the market;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to address this artificial shortage; and
- (d) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to achieve affordable, quality medicines and healthcare for all?

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): Ceiling Prices of 856 medicines included in Schedule-I of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) have been fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), resulting in a saving of Rs. 11,462 crore for patients (as on 30th November 2018).

(b) & (c): NPPA has been closely watching availability of Coronary Stents after fixing its ceiling price. No shortage has been reported so far in this regard.

(d): NPPA fixes price cap for medicines and medical devices which are included under Schedule-I of DPCO, 2013. At present, prices have been fixed for 856 formulations including 4 medical devices which are covered under Schedule-I of the DPCO, 2013. As per Paragraph 20 of the DPCO 2013, NPPA monitors the Maximum Retail Prices (MRPs) of all drugs, including the non-scheduled formulations and ensures that no manufacturer increases the maximum retail price of a drug more than ten percent of maximum retail price in preceding twelve months. NPPA is effectively monitoring the prices of medicines including the non-scheduled formulations and takes action against companies found overcharging.

The Department of Pharmaceuticals has also launched a Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)' in order to make quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all through specific outlets. As on date, 4571 PMBJP outlets are functional across the country.
