

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4426
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8th January, 2019

Overcharging for Angioplasty

4426. SHRI B.V. NAIK:
SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that private hospitals still continue to overcharge from parents for angioplasty despite the fact that the Government has slashed the prices of cardiac stents to the tune of 75 per cent;
- (b) if so, the number of complaints received by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority in this regard against such hospitals;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any action against the said hospitals; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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): National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), vide its notification no. S.O. 412(E), dated 13th February, 2017, fixed the ceiling price of the Coronary Stents. Further, NPPA, vide its notification S.O. 639 (E) dated 12/02/2018, re-fixed the ceiling price of the Coronary Stents under para 19 of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). Institutions such as hospitals/nursing homes/clinics utilizing Coronary Stents for angioplasty are bound to abide by the ceiling prices fixed by the Government for coronary stents. Perusal of the itemised hospital bills and related documents which have been received from the hospitals/nursing homes/clinics in connection with the complaints received for overcharging of stents reveal that there is usually no overcharging on coronary stents. So far, only in two cases, one hospital has marginally overcharged two patients and subsequently the overcharged amount has been refunded to the patients by the hospital.

(b) to (d): A total of 40 complaints have been received in NPPA alleging overpricing by hospitals for coronary stents during 2016-17. However, no new complaint has been brought to the attention of NPPA since then. The Government is effectively monitoring the implementation of ceiling prices fixed for coronary stents. As and when such incidents of overpricing by hospitals for coronary stents are reported to NPPA, appropriate actions are taken under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013).

Public Health being a State subject, the primary responsibility of supply of medicines and management of hospitals lies with the State/Union Territory Governments. However, the National Council for Clinical Establishments, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) has approved a standard list of medical procedures and a standard template for costing of medical procedures and the same have been shared with the States for appropriate action.
