

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2551  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2019

**Shortage of Medicines**

**2551. MS. RAMYA HARIDAS:**

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

- (a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn towards the rising number of complaints regarding shortage of medicines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of complaints registered during the last three years regarding overpricing, shortage of medicines, supply refusal of medicines and sale of new medicines without prior price approval; and
- (c) the steps proposed by the Government to address the drug shortage and overpricing of medicines?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS  
(SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA)**

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(a): Yes, Sir. As per the available records, the number of complaints regarding the shortage of medicines received during Financial Year 2018-19 is 139.

(b): Status of number of complaints received during last three years is as follows.

Sr. No.	Complaint Type	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1	Overpricing	25	48	80
2	Shortage of medicine	74	124	139
3	Supply refusal of medicine	18	18	21
4	Sale of new medicine without prior price approval	12	0	1

(c): In case of a complaint regarding shortage of a particular medicine received from a particular person or at particular place, concerned companies are advised to rush the supplies to that the person / area.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is effectively monitoring the prices of medicines and is taking action against companies found overcharging the consumers based on the references received from the State Drugs Controllers/individuals, samples purchased from the open market and analytical reports from market-based data.

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