

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 391
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03rd February, 2023

Increase in Prices of Drugs

**391. SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:
SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT:**

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

- (a) whether the prices of Price Controlled Scheduled Bulk Drugs have been hiked by 10.7 percent with the approval of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, if so, the details thereof along with the name of the drugs whose price has been hiked;
- (b) whether the hike in prices of scheduled medicines is also applicable for the drugs available at the Jan Aushadhi Kendras established under PMBJP; and
- (c) the details of the measures taken by the Government to retain/stabilize the price of medicines sold in Jan Aushadhi Kendras under PMBJP after this hike?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA)**

(a): The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013), do not provide for fixing the prices of bulk drugs. However, the ceiling prices of scheduled formulations (branded or generic) under Schedule-I of DPCO, 2013 are fixed by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals. Under the provisions of DPCO, 2013 annual revision of ceiling prices of scheduled medicines is permissible, based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for all commodities in the preceding year. The annual change in WPI of all commodities with base year 2011-12 works out as 10.76607% during the calendar year 2021 over the corresponding period in 2020. Accordingly, effective from 01.04.2022, the ceiling price of 898 scheduled formulations (of which 889 scheduled formulations fixed under NLEM 2015) were revised based on WPI. The relevant notification, S.O. No. 1499(E) dated 30.03.2022 showing the list of medicines is available at the website of NPPA, viz., nppaindia.nic.in. This provides for the maximum increase permissible, however, increase in the prices of these drugs by the manufacturers is based on commercial consideration and may be lower or same as permissible increase depending on the market dynamics.

(b) & (c): Under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), dedicated outlets known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) have been opened to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices. All manufacturers of scheduled medicines, including those sold through Jan Aushadhi Kendras, have to sell the same within the ceiling price (as revised from time to time, including based on WPI). However, Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) ensures that the prices of medicines sold through the Kendras are at least 50% cheaper than that of branded medicines available in the open market.
