

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †447
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03rd February, 2023

Drugs (Prices Control) for Critical Diseases

†447. **SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI:**
SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI:
SHRI BALAK NATH:
DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:

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

- (a) whether medicines for cancer, diabetes, lung and heart diseases have been included under the Drugs (Prices Control) order by the Government as a part of the new list of essential medicines in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to ensure affordability and availability of medicines for cancer, diabetes, lung and heart diseases in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the total quantity of cancer medicines produced and supplied along with the total quantity of medicines imported by the Government in the country during the last five years?

ANSWER

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

(a): There are 47 anti-cancer medicines consisting of 85 formulations, 8 medicines used in diabetes consisting of 11 formulations and 30 cardiovascular medicines consisting of 69 formulations that are included in the National List of Essential Medicine (NLEM) notified by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 13.09.2022 and incorporated in Revised Schedule-I of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) notified by Department of Pharmaceuticals on 11.11.2022. There is no separate therapeutic category for medicines used for lung disease.

(b): To ensure affordability of medicines including those for cancer, diabetes, lung and heart diseases, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under department of Pharmaceuticals has fixed ceiling prices of 890 scheduled formulations across various therapeutic categories under NLEM 2015 which includes 86 anti-cancer formulations, 12 anti-diabetes formulations and 74 cardiovascular formulations. Further, under NLEM 2022, NPPA has fixed ceiling prices of 344 scheduled formulations till 26.01.2023 which includes 43 anti-cancer formulations, 5 anti-diabetes formulations and 36 cardio vascular formulations. Also, in 2014, NPPA capped the MRP of 106 non-scheduled drug formulations under Para 19 of DPCO, 2013 which includes 22 diabetic and 84 cardiovascular drugs. In addition, Trade

Margin of non-scheduled formulations of 42 select Anti-cancer medicines were capped under “Trade Margin Rationalization” approach, wherein price of above 500 brands of medicines were reduced by up to 90%. The details of prices fixed by NPPA is available on the website of NPPA i.e., nppaindia.nic.in.

To ensure availability, the extant provisions of DPCO, 2013 provides for issuance of directions to manufacturers of scheduled formulations and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) contained in scheduled formulations to increase their production in case of emergency or in circumstances of urgency, in public interest. Also, NPPA regularly monitors availability of specific drugs. In addition, measures have also been taken to encourage domestic manufacturing of pharmaceutical drugs and their APIs, including for cancer, diabetes, lung and heart diseases. The major programmatic interventions to support pharma industries include Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme and Bulk Drugs Park Scheme. The approved eligible product categories under PLI Scheme for Pharmaceuticals include "Auto immune drugs, anti-cancer drugs, anti-diabetic drugs, anti-infective drugs, cardiovascular drugs, psychotropic drugs and anti-retro viral drugs".

(c): Data relating to production, supply and import of cancer medicines is not maintained by the Department of Pharmaceuticals.
