

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4993
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31st March, 2023

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority

**4993. SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY:
SHRI N. REDDEPPA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has allowed a onetime price hike of 50 per cent for three key drugs ibuprofen, ranitidine and carbamazepine;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that these drugs are used as the first line of treatment and revised prices of bulk quantities would multiply and exceed the concessional rates set for them under 'scheduled drugs'; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken/proposed to be taken to address this issue?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) received applications for upward price revision for drugs including ibuprofen, ranitidine and carbamazepine under Para 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 2013 (DPCO, 2013) citing various reasons, like increase in cost of production, mainly on account of increase in prices of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), exchange rate variation, etc. making the manufacturing and marketing of drugs unviable. NPPA took cognizance of these issues and the fact that while ensuring affordability, access to essential drugs cannot be jeopardized and must remain available to the general public at all times. Accordingly, NPPA had revised the ceiling price of a total of nine formulations of three drugs, viz., ibuprofen, ranitidine and carbamazepine vide SO. 2654(E) dated 01.07.2021 by allowing one-time price hike of 50 percent on the extant ceiling price as an exceptional measure under provisions of Para 19 of the DPCO, 2013.

Further, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MHFW) notified the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) 2022 on 13.09.2022. Accordingly, Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) has notified Revised Schedule-I of DPCO, 2013 on the basis of NLEM, 2022 on 11.11.2022. Ranitidine is not listed under revised Schedule-I (NLEM, 2022). Hence, its revised ceiling price is not fixed. However, the current ceiling prices notified under NLEM, 2022, of scheduled formulations of ibuprofen and carbamazepine in respect of which prices were hiked by 50% under NLEM, 2015 are now lower than their respective ceiling price under NLEM, 2015 (vide S.O. 1499 (E) dated 30.03.2022. Further, DPCO 2013 provide for fixing ceiling prices of scheduled drugs, but there is no provision for setting concessional rates for scheduled drugs.
