

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 323
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st July, 2023

Monitoring of Prices of Scheduled Drugs under NLEM

323. SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes, revises and monitors the prices of scheduled drugs under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that prices for drugs in NLEM allow a 16 percent margin for retailers and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received recommendations from experts to either reduce the 16 percent margin for retailers or provide subsidy to the retailers/consumers, as the margin is too high at present and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is a demand that the 10 percent annual increment allowed in the prices of non-scheduled drugs be reduced to 5 percent; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a): Pursuant to notification of the National List of Essential Medicines, 2022 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 13.09.2022, the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) incorporated the same in the revised Schedule-I of Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013 and notified the same on 11.11.2022. There are 388 medicines (including 2 animal vaccines and 2 stents) consisting of about 954 formulations in the revised Schedule-I of the DPCO, 2013. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under DoP has fixed ceiling prices of 915 scheduled formulations till 10.07.2023, out of which ceiling price of 691 scheduled formulations have been fixed under NLEM, 2022.

(b): As per the extant provisions of DPCO, 2013, while fixing ceiling price of scheduled formulations and retail prices of new drugs, sixteen percent of price to retailer is allowed.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): In view of the reply at (d) above, does not arise.
