

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2246
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15th December, 2023

Drug Pricing Authority

2246. SHRI THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOL:

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

- (a) whether the drug pricing authority of the country has allowed a price hike of 10.7 percent for scheduled drugs which are under price control on March 28th 2022;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the prices have been hiked as per Pricing Authority's approval of 10.7 percent;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the drugs whose prices have been hiked;
- (e) whether the hike in price of scheduled medicines are also applicable for drugs at the Jan Aushadhi Kendras established under PMBJP in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take measures to retain the price of medicines sold in Jan Aushadhi Kendras under PMBJP after such hike and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): As per the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013), the ceiling prices of scheduled formulations (branded or generic) are fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals. As per the provisions of DPCO, 2013, annual revision of ceiling prices of scheduled medicines is permissible based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for 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, the ceiling price of 898 scheduled formulations (of which 889 scheduled formulations fixed under NLEM 2015) were revised based on WPI effective from 01.04.2022. The details of prices of medicines fixed by NPPA are available at the website of NPPA i.e. nppaindia.nic.in. The WPI increase is only the maximum increase permissible, which may or may not be availed by the manufacturers based on competitive markets and commercial considerations.

(e) & (f): 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, or at the ceiling price, as revised from time to time. 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.
