

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 316
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19th NOVEMBER, 2019

Enlisting of Costly Drugs

316. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:

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

- (a) whether it is true that over 80 per cent of costly drugs are not on the list of essential medicines thereby burdening the common man;
- (b) if so, the reasons for keeping them out of price control and the efforts being made to bring them under price control;
- (c) whether NITI Aayog is encroaching upon the powers of the NPPA through Standing Committee; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for interference of NITI Aayog in the affairs of NPPA?

ANSWER

**MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA)**

(a) & (b): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare notified the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2015 with 376 medicines. The criteria adopted for inclusion of a medicine in NLEM were as follows:

- The medicine should be approved/licensed in India.
- The medicine should be useful in disease which is a public health problem in India.
- The medicine should have proven efficacy and safety profile based on valid scientific evidence.
- The medicine should be cost effective.
- The medicine should be aligned with the current treatment guidelines for the disease.
- The medicine should be stable under the storage conditions in India.
- When more than one medicine are available from the same therapeutic class, preferably one prototype/ medically best suited medicine of that class to be included after due deliberation and careful evaluation of their relative safety, efficacy, cost-effectiveness.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy (NPPP), 2012 links price control to essentiality of drugs. Accordingly, cost of drugs is not the basis for price regulation.

(c): No Sir. The Standing Committee on Affordable Medicines and Health Products (SCAMHP) was constituted vide Order dated 21st January, 2019 of Department of Pharmaceuticals. The committee is a recommending body to National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) regarding prices of drugs and health products. The committee may take a matter for examination, suo-moto or on the recommendations / request of Department of Pharmaceuticals, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority and Department of Health & Family Welfare.

(d): In view of reply to (c) above, the question does not arise.

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