

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2580
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06TH MARCH, 2020**

RISE IN PRICES OF DRUGS

2580. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the price of paracetamol, antibiotics like azithromycin and any other drugs has seen a sharp rise due to Coronavirus outbreak in China;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by his Ministry to control the prices;
- (c) whether the Government has done any analysis of the impact of the rise in prices of any drugs on the expenditure made on the procurement of medicines for CGHS;
- (d) if so, the anticipated monetary value of increased expenditure; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

(a) to (e): National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals is entrusted with the task of monitoring the availability of drugs, identifying shortages, if any, taking remedial measures and controlling pricing of drugs. It has received reports regarding increase in prices of critical APIs (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients) due to coronavirus outbreak in China. NPPA has written to Chief Secretaries of the States/UTs to monitor the production and availability of APIs and their formulations to prevent black marketing and hoarding.

Further, the prices of Paracetamol, antibiotics like Azithromycin and other similar generic drugs of common use, have been fixed by Medical Stores Organisation (MSO) for Central Government Health Services (CGHS), in May 2019, by an open tender. CGHS continues to procure these medicines from MSO at these rates. There is no rise in prices as far as CGHS is concerned.

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