LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3399
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17th December, 2021

Drugs for Treatment of Cancer

†3399. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA:
           SHRIMATI RANJANBEN DHANANJAY BHATT:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken any concrete steps to enable the Central Public Sector Undertakings to manufacture drugs for the treatment of cancer and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the details of the prices of drugs manufactured by the CPSUs vis-à-vis the drugs manufactured by private pharmaceutical companies;
(c) whether the Government proposes to reduce the price of drugs required for the treatment of cancer;
(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction so far; and
(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
                                                    (Dr. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (e) : There are five pharma Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the aegis of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, namely (i) Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL), (ii) Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL), (iii) Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), (iv) Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceutical Limited (KAPL) and (v) Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (RDPL). But, none of the pharma PSUs are manufacturing any drugs for the treatment of cancer.

However, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), an attached office of Department of Pharmaceuticals, which is mandated for price regulation of scheduled drugs, has fixed the ceiling prices of 86 anti-cancer scheduled formulations under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2015. Further, NPPA has also put a cap of 30% Trade Margin on 42 selected non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines on pilot basis under 'Trade Margin Rationalization' approach. Under this approach, the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of 526 brands of anti-cancer medicines have been reduced by upto 90%.

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