

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2206
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th July, 2022

Price Hike of Key Drugs

2206. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has allowed a one-time price hike of 50 percent for three key drugs - ibuprofen, ranitidine, and carbamazepine and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is also aware that such drugs are being used as the first line of treatment and therefor such revised prices of bulk quantities would exceed the concessional rates set for them under 'scheduled drugs'; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the measures proposed to be taken up by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) has been receiving applications for upward price revision under Para 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 2013 (DPCO, 2013) citing various reasons, including increase in cost of production, mainly on account of increase in prices of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), exchange rate variation, etc. making the sustainable production and marketing of the drugs unviable.

NPPA, after examining the applications for upward price revision for 3 drugs, viz., ibuprofen, ranitidine, and carbamazepine, noted that these scheduled formulations are low priced drugs and have been under repeated price control. It was further noted that these drugs are used as first line of treatment and are important to the public health program of the country. NPPA noted that while ensuring affordability, access cannot be jeopardized and the lifesaving essential drugs must remain available to the general public at all times. Accordingly, NPPA took the considered view that unviability of these formulations should not lead to a situation where these drugs become unavailable in the market and the public is forced to switch to costly alternatives.

In order to address the situation, NPPA has revised the ceiling price of 3 drugs, viz., ibuprofen, ranitidine and carbamazepine vide SO. 2654(E) dated 01.07.2021 by allowing one-time price hike of 50 percent on the extant ceiling price as an exceptional measure under provisions of Para 19 of the DPCO, 2013.
