

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1981
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06th DECEMBER, 2024

Hike in Medicine Price

1981. Shri Adhikari Deepak Dev:

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

- (a) the reason for 50% price hike in price of essential medicines;
- (b) whether there is any plan by the Government to give subsidy on top ten life saving drugs, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a): The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under Department of Pharmaceuticals received applications in respect of 77 formulations from various pharmaceutical manufacturing/marketing companies and industry associations requesting for upward revision of price for their formulation(s). This request was made on the grounds that ensuring continued availability of these drugs at existing rates was not viable due to reasons like increase in cost of production, increase in cost of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), changes in exchange rate, request for discontinuation of some of the formulations etc. After detailed scrutiny, NPPA approved increase in the price of 11 formulations of 8 drugs to ensure their continued availability so that the public is not forced to switch to expensive alternatives due to non-availability of these drugs in the market.

(b) to (c): Under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), quality medicine at affordable prices is offered to people. The price of Jan Aushadhi medicines are cheaper by at least by 50%, and in some cases, by 80% to 90% of the market price of branded medicines available in the market. Further the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), under National Health Mission, has rolled out the Free Drugs Service Initiative to under which financial support is provided to States/UTs for provision of free essential medicines in public healthcare facilities. Also, MoHFW under the initiative Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) provides affordable medicines for treatment of cancer, cardiovascular and other diseases, implants, surgical disposables and other consumables etc., at a significant discount of upto 50% on market rates through AMRIT Pharmacy stores set up in some hospitals/institutions.
