

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3114  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2024

**Increasing Prices of Medicines**

**†3114. Smt. Manju Sharma:**

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

- (a) the percentage increase in prices of medicines during the last three years;
- (b) the number of medicines for which permission has been sought from the Government for price hike;
- (c) if so, the details and names of the said medicines; and
- (d) the details of the medicines whose prices have been decreased or reduced?

**ANSWER**

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

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(a): National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), fixes the ceiling price of medicines included in Scheduled-I to the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). All manufactures of scheduled medicines have to sell their products within the ceiling price (plus applicable Goods and Service Tax) fixed by the NPPA. In case of non-scheduled formulations, a manufacturer is at liberty to fix the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of the drugs launched by it. However, as per the DPCO 2013, no manufacturer can increase MRP of non-scheduled drug by more than 10% during preceding 12 months.

The ceiling prices of scheduled medicines are revised annually on the basis of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (all commodities) for the preceding calendar year on or before 1st April of every year. The WPI increase is the maximum permissible increase for scheduled medicine and may or may not be availed by the manufacturers based on market dynamics. The percentage increase in the ceiling prices of medicines as per WPI during the last three years are given below:

**WPI Year wise**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>WPI</b>
1.	01.04.2021	0.53638%
2.	01.04.2022	10.76607%
3.	01.04.2023	12.1218%

(b) & (c): NPPA 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) 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 pharmaceuticals ingredients, changes in exchange rate, request for discontinuation of some of the formulations etc. The price revision was carried out only in respect of 11 scheduled formulations viz., Benzyl Penicillin 10 Lakh IU injection, Atropine Injection 0.6mg/ml, Streptomycin 750 mg injection, Streptomycin 1000 mg injection, Salbutamol 2mg tablets, Salbutamol 4mg tablets, Salbutamol 5mg respiratory solution, Pilocarpine 2% eye drops, Cefadroxil Tablet 500mg, Desferrioxamine 500mg Powder for injection, Lithium Tablet 300mg.

(d): As on 11.12.2024, Ceiling Prices of 926 scheduled formulations have been fixed by NPPA of which ceiling prices of 742 are fixed/ refixed under National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2022. The average price reduction due to refixation of prices under NLEM, 2022 is about 16.82%. Further, as on 11.12.2024, Retail Price of approx. 3,046 new drugs, as defined in DPCO 2013, have been fixed by NPPA for the applicant manufacturer. In addition, the NPPA has taken other measures to regulate the prices of drugs using special provisions under Para 19 of DPCO, 2013 which *inter alia* include the following:

- i. NPPA capped the MRP of 106 non-scheduled drug formulations in 2014 which includes 22 diabetic and 84 cardiovascular drugs on account of high inter brand variation for the same medicine.
- ii. As a patient centric measure, ceiling price of Orthopaedic Knee Implants were fixed in August 2017.
- iii. In February, 2019, Trade Margin of non-scheduled formulations of 42 select Anti-cancer medicines were capped under “Trade Margin Rationalization” approach, wherein prices of above 500 brands of medicines were reduced by average around 50 percent.
- iv. Price of Oxygen Concentrators, Pulse Oximeter, Blood Pressure Monitoring Machine, Nebulizer, Digital Thermometer and Glucometer were capped under “Trade Margin Rationalisation” Approach in June 2021 and July 2021.

The details of prices fixed by NPPA is available on the website of NPPA i.e. [nppaindia.nic.in](http://nppaindia.nic.in).

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