

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 815  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2025

**Price Hike in Common Drugs**

**815. Ms. S Jothimani:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government increased the prices of eight common drugs;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the same and the manner in which this decision aligns with the principle of public interest;
- (c) the measures being taken to ensure that this price hike does not negatively impact the affordability of essential medicines for the general public, especially the economically disadvantaged; and
- (d) whether the Government plans to monitor the impact of these price increases on the accessibility of essential medicines and the overall healthcare costs for citizens and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS**

**(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

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(a) to (d): The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals received applications from various pharmaceutical manufacturing/marketing companies and industry associations requesting for upward revision of prices of 77 formulations on the grounds that ensuring continued availability of these drugs at existing rates was not viable due to reasons such as increase in the cost of production, increase in the cost of active pharmaceutical ingredients, changes in exchange rate, etc. Requests for allowing discontinuation of some of these formulations were also made on ground of their non-viability at the then existing rates. After detailed examination, NPPA approved one-time price increase of 50% in the prices of 11 formulations of eight drugs, with a view to ensure their continued availability so that the general public, including the economically disadvantaged, are not forced to switch to expensive alternatives due to non-availability of these drugs in the market. These drugs are used for treatment of asthma, glaucoma, thalassemia, tuberculosis, mental health disorders, etc. Most of these drugs are low-cost and generally used as a first line of treatment crucial to public health programmes in the country.

The prices of both scheduled and non-scheduled drugs are monitored by NPPA. Instances of overcharging are dealt by NPPA under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013.

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