

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2134
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12th DECEMBER, 2025

Exploitation of Consumers by Pharmacies

2134. Shri Sanjay Dina Patil:
Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe:
Shri Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare:
Smt. Supriya Sule:
Shri Mohite Patil Dhairyasheel Rajsinh:
Prof. Varsha Eknath Gaikwad:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that consumers in Maharashtra are being exploited by pharmacies and medical stores through the sale of loose or unpackaged medicines at prices significantly higher than their per-unit Maximum Retail Price (MRP);
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the mechanism currently in place in Maharashtra to regulate the pricing of individual tablets, capsules or syrups when sold in loose form without their original strip or bottle packaging;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any studies or received complaints particularly in Maharashtra regarding this practice, if so the details of such complaints or findings; and
- (d) the concrete steps being taken or proposed by the Government to curb this exploitative practice in Maharashtra and to ensure that consumers are not charged more than the MRP for any form of medicine sale?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (d): The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) monitors prices of drugs in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (“DPCO, 2013”). Under DPCO, 2013, every manufacturer of a formulation is required to print the maximum retail price (MRP) on the label of the container of such formulation. Further, no dealer is permitted to sell any loose quantity of formulation at a price exceeding the *pro rata* price of the formulation. NPPA monitors the prices of formulations and takes action in accordance with the provisions of DPCO, 2013 against any company found to be overcharging consumers, based on references received regarding overcharging from any source, including Price Monitoring and Resource Units set up in States and State Drugs Controllers (including those in the State of Maharashtra), samples purchased from the open market, reports from market database and complaints lodged through grievance redress channels. NPPA has informed that no complaint as referred to in the question, regarding sale of loose or unpackaged medicines at prices significantly higher than their per-unit MRP, has been received by NPPA, including from the State of Maharashtra.
