

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4726
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20TH MARCH 2026

Overcharging of Medicines

4726. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda:

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

- (a) the total number of cases of overcharging for medicines transferred to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) during the last ten years, State/UT-wise and year-wise including the current year;
- (b) the number of such cases in which action has been completed with penalties imposed, along with the details of penalties recovered;
- (c) the number of cases currently pending with NPPA for adjudication;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen monitoring and enforcement of drug price control to protect consumers across the country, including Haryana; and
- (e) whether the Government has prepared any time-bound strategy to reduce cases of medicine overcharging and ensure effective compliance with the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (c): The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) enquires into instance of overcharging brought to its notice and if a prima facie case of overcharging is established, NPPA initiates necessary action by issuing Demand Notices (DNs) to such companies to recover the overcharged amount along with applicable interest. NPPA does not maintain state-wise record of overcharging by pharmaceutical companies. The year-wise details of number of cases where DN were issued, DN amount were recovered and pending cases over the period FY2015-16 to FY2025-26 (till 30.09.2025) is given in the table below:

Details of overcharging cases for medicines				
F.Y.	Total no. of DN issued	No. of cases wherein DN amount has been recovered		No. of cases currently pending
	No. of cases	No. of cases	Recovered Amount (Rs. in Lakh)	No. of Cases
2015-16	245	138	953.26	107
2016-17	118	58	6129.14	60
2017-18	182	56	4274.48	126
2018-19	134	70	786.57	64
2019-20	54	32	377.16	22

2020-21	21	3	9.79	18
2021-22	6	4	341.35	2
2022-23	99	21	452.95	78
2023-24	43	8	29.44	35
2024-25	59	27	172.96	32
2025-26 (upto 30.09.2025)	60	13	333.83	47
Total	1021	430	13860.93	591

(d): In order to strengthen the price monitoring, Government has established Price Monitoring & Resource Units (PMRUs) in States and UTs, including Haryana, under the Central Sector Scheme 'Consumer Awareness, Publicity and Price Monitoring - (CAPP)'. These PMRUs collect data on prices and also conduct IEC activities to create awareness among public on pricing related aspects of drugs. NPPA and consumer/general public are engaged through online platforms like 'Pharma Jan Samadhan', which provides the consumer with an effective and time bound grievance redressal system to deal with complaints related to pricing, shortage and non-availability of medicines. Further, consumer may also connect with NPPA through mobile app 'Pharma Sahi Daam', and 'Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)'. Pharma Sahi Daam app lists the ceiling price of 928 formulations and MRP of approximate 98600 medicines. General public can check the current prices of various drugs through the app. In addition, NPPA has a helpline 1800111255 and email: monitoring-nppa@gov.in, on which complaints on overcharging of drugs can be registered. Further, all price notifications are uploaded on the website of NPPA, i.e., www.nppa.gov.in.

(e): Monitoring of prices of drugs and action for recovery of overcharged amount is an ongoing activity and therefore, no time limits can be set for the same.
