

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 907**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2016**

**Committee for Price of Drugs**

907. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:  
SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has appointed an Expert Committee to specifically look into high prices of medicines in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Expert Committee has submitted its report to the Government if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee along with the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to cap the margin of chemists and wholesalers to bring down the prices of medicines in the country, if so, the details thereof and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to bring down the prices of essential medicines in the country?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

(a): No, Madam.

(b): In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.

(c): The DPCO, 2013 provides that sixteen percent of price to retailer shall be allowed as a margin to retailer, while fixing ceiling price of scheduled formulations and retail prices of new drugs.

(d): Pursuant to the announcement of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012, Government notified Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) on 15th May, 2013. All the medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines 2011 (NLEM) have been included in the First Schedule of DPCO, 2013. Out of total 680 NLEM medicines (628 net medicines) under scheduled category of DPCO, 2013. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has fixed the ceiling prices in respect of 530 medicines (including 53 formulations for cardiovascular diseases, 6 for diabetes, 20 for HIV / AIDS, 24 for Tuberculosis, 47 for Cancer and 6 for kidney disease).