

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3749

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9TH August, 2016

Price Control of Life Saving Drugs

3749. DR. A. SAMPATH:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring life-saving drugs under price control regime;
- (b) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the arrangements made by the Government to make available life-saving drugs free of cost to the poor and helpless people in Government as well as private hospitals?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a)&(b): The prices of drugs are controlled under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 where drugs are referred to as per their definition in the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940. However, there is no definition of life saving drugs either in the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 or in Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013. At present, the ceiling prices of medicines of various strength/dosage forms as declared by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and included in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2015, are fixed by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).

(c): Public Health being a state subject, it is for the States/UTs to draw up such action plans as per their need. Under the National Health Mission (NHM), financial support is provided to the States/UTs for strengthening their healthcare delivery system including support for provision of free drugs to those who access public health facilities based on the requirement posed by the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans. An incentive of upto 5% additional funding (over and above the normal allocation of the State) under the NHM is provided to those States that introduce free medicines scheme.

Under the NHM-Free drug service Initiative substantial funding is available to States for provision of free drugs subject to States/UTs meeting certain specific conditions. The number of free drugs provided by the States varies from State to State and most States have their own list of essential medicines.

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