

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3416
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07TH AUGUST, 2026**

REVIEWING OF THE NATIONAL LIST OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES, 2022

3416. DR. MALLU RAVI:

Will the **Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2022 in view of advances in medical science, the changing disease burden and subsequent revisions to the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it has assessed the impact of the delay in revising the NLEM on availability, affordability and price regulation of newer essential medicines, particularly for cancer, rare diseases and non-communicable diseases, including their accessibility in Nagarkurnool district, Telangana, if so, the details thereof, district-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to constitute an expert committee and institutionalise the periodic revision of the NLEM in line with global best practices, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether representations have been received from medical experts, public health institutions and patient groups for inclusion of additional essential medicines, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the timeline for the next NLEM revision, along with measures proposed by the Government to improve access to essential medicines in underserved districts, particularly Nagarkurnool District, Telangana?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (e): The National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2022 was notified by the Government after a comprehensive review carried out by the Standing National Committee on Medicines (SNCM) in consultation with experts from various disciplines and stakeholders. The revision took into consideration the country's disease burden, public health priorities, safety, efficacy, cost-effectiveness, contemporary knowledge of use of therapeutic products in health & hygiene of general public, various documents of medicines, availability of medicines including World Health Organization (WHO) Model List through an established

expert consultative mechanism. NLEM, 2022 comprises 384 medicines, including 34 newly added medicines and deletion of 26 medicines from the earlier list.

Revision in NLEM is undertaken by the Government through an established expert consultative mechanism. During such revision, medicines across all therapeutic categories, are considered based on the prescribed criteria and available scientific evidence. These include drug approval status, banned drugs status in the country, safety & efficacy profile of drug, resistance patterns against antimicrobials, disease burden, medicines enlisted in National health programs, affordability, accessibility, cost-effectiveness, better alternatives, therapeutic advances, safety concerns and representations received from various stakeholders which are discussed in respective expert group meetings.

The medicines included in NLEM are brought under price regulation by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013, thereby improving their affordability.

The Government aims to improve access to essential medicines across the country, including districts such as Nagarkurnool, through price regulation of medicines included in the NLEM under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013, promotion of affordable generic medicines under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India. Under the scheme, dedicated outlets known as Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) have been opened across the country including in Nagarkurnool district, Telangana, for providing medicines at 50%-80% cheaper rates to the citizens.

Further, under the National Health Mission (NHM), financial support is provided to the States/UTs including various districts of Telangana for strengthening their healthcare delivery system including support for provision of free essential medicines in public health facilities based on the requirements posed by States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) within their overall resource envelope. Under Free Drugs Service Initiative, Ministry has recommended facility wise Essential Drugs List (EDL) to be made available at the public healthcare facilities in the country to ensure widespread access to essential medicines.
