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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 981
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2026

MARKET ACCESS PROGRAMMES BY PHARMA COMPANIES

981. SHRI K C VENUGOPAL:

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

(a) the details of guidelines governing the conduct of market access and patient assistance programmes by pharmaceutical companies in private hospitals;
(b) the institutional mechanisms in place to monitor these programmes, the use of patient data and the outcomes generated therefrom, along with the specific role played by the State Health Departments in this regard; and
(c) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that pharmaceutical companies do not influence the pricing mechanisms or the inclusion of high-end drugs and diagnostics in the benefit packages of Central and State health insurance schemes?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) & (b): As informed by Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), the pharmaceutical companies implement Patient Assistance Programmes (PAPs)/Market Access Programmes as voluntary initiatives to improve patient access and affordability of innovative medicines. These programmes are administered through independent third-party agencies based on defined patient eligibility criteria and company-specific operating procedures, with appropriate safeguards, including oversight mechanisms, periodic audits and grievance redressal systems.

As informed by Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), the pharmaceutical companies have established internal oversight and control mechanisms for the implementation of PAPs, including verification of patient eligibility and prescriptions, monitoring of third-party agencies, confirmation of drug administration and periodic independent audits. Patient information is collected and processed by the third-party agencies only for programme administration and treatment continuity.

(c): As informed by Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals fixes ceiling prices of formulations and medical devices included in the National List of Essential Medicines published by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and incorporated by the DoP in Schedule-I to the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). NPPA also fixes the retail price of new drugs as defined in section 2(1) (u) of DPCO, 2013. In case of non-scheduled formulations, manufacturers are required to not increase the maximum retail price (MRP) of such formulations by more than 10% of MRP during preceding 12 months. NPPA monitors the prices of both scheduled and non-scheduled formulations/medical devices and takes action in accordance with the provisions of DPCO, 2013 against companies that are found overcharging consumers.

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