

products of the company viz. bio-fertilizers; micronutrients and 100% water soluble fertilizers are in great demand in market. All these products are at par in quality and successfully compete with other established products in the market.

(c) Research and Development activities are undertaken by individual manufacturing units.

Price-rise of essential medicines

2671. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

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

(a) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has announced steep increase in the prices of several essential medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its impact on the common man;

(c) whether Government has since taken any step to control the hike in prices of essential medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Essential medicines are not defined in Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). The price fixation/revision is a continuous process under the DPCO, 1995. The National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes/revises the prices of scheduled medicines as per provisions of DPCO, 1995. The details of the prices fixed/revised during last two years and the current year are given below:—

	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12 (upto 31.7.2011)	
	Nos.	%age	Nos.	%age	Nos.	%age
Price Increased	184	10.08	223	31.28	95	34.80
Price Decreased	450	24.67	60	8.42	30	10.99
Price fixed for the first time	1155	63.33	371	52.03	114	41.76
No change in prices	35	1.92	59	8.27	34	12.45
TOTAL:	1824	100	713	100	273	100

It is evident from the details mentioned above, that during the current financial year 2011-12 (upto 31st July, 2011), the prices of 273 scheduled medicine packs have been fixed/revised by

the NPPA, out of which only in 95 cases the prices were increased which comprises 34.80% of the total cases for which prices were fixed/revised during the year. In the remaining cases, prices were either reduced or fixed for the first time or there was no change in the price.

(c) and (d) Under the provisions of the DPCO, 95, the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. NPPA fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. The NPPA monitors the prices of all formulations including imported scheduled formulations under price control. Under the provisions of DPCO, 1995, no person can sell any scheduled formulation (medicine) to a consumer at a price exceeding the price notified/approved by the NPPA.

In respect of drugs not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. As a part of price-monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of IMS Health and the information furnished by individual manufactures are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-scheduled formulations. Wherever price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed,, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest.

Based on monitoring of prices of non-scheduled formulations, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 30 formulation packs under paragraph 10(b) and companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 65 formulations packs. Thus in all, prices of 95 packs of non-scheduled drugs have got reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA.

Backlog vacancies in the Ministry

2672. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether provision inserted *vide* the Eighty First Amendment to the Constitution of India is being followed in the Ministry for all Groups *i.e.* Group A to D;
- (b) whether backlog vacancies are notified and filled up every year;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of backlog vacancies filled during the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes, Sir.