

**Availability of generic drugs**

821. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has not made much headway in making available generic, generic-branded medicines, their formulations and therapeutic efficacy;
- (b) whether generic drugs are several times cheaper than branded drugs of same efficacy but are difficult to find; and
- (c) the immediate steps Government is taking to promote a string of generic drug stores called Jan Aushadhi stores all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Under the Jan Aushadhi Campaign of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, 319 generic medicines, in various dosage forms, covering various therapeutic categories are under the range of supply through Jan Aushadhi stores, spread over eleven States/UT. The Department is regularly reviewing the progress of the Jan Aushadhi Campaign, particularly availability of medicines and coverage of the therapeutic categories.

(b) The generic drugs being sold at the Jan Aushadhi Stores are equivalent in terms of efficacy, potency and bio-availability as that of the branded medicines. However, in terms of prices, generic medicines are much cheaper as compared to the branded medicines, also illustrated in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) All State Governments have been requested to open Jan Aushadhi Stores in their respective States for which all necessary assistance in terms of financial assistance and medicines are being provided by the Department through Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India (BPPI).

***Statement****Comparative analysis of prices of branded vis-à-vis generic medicines*

Name of salt	Dosage	Pack	Average market price of branded medicines	Prices of generic medicines sold in Jan Aushadhi outlets (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
Tablet <b>Ciprofloxacin</b>	250 mg	10	55.00	11.10

1	2	3	4	5
Tablet <b>Ciprofloxacin</b>	500 mg	10	97.00	21.50
Tablet <b>Diclofenac SR</b>	100 mg	10	51.91	3.35
Tablet <b>Cetirizine</b>	10 mg	10	37.50	2.75
Tablet <b>Paracetamol</b>	500 mg	10	13.56	2.45
Tablet <b>Nimesulide</b>	100 mg	10	38.66	2.70
<b>Cough Syrup</b>		110 ml bottle	33.00	13.30

#### **Selling of medicines at higher prices**

†822. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that medicines are being sold at manifold higher prices than their cost by major pharmaceutical companies;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Union Minister of Corporate Affairs has asked the Ministry to take necessary action against the guilty companies; and
- (d) if so, the details of the companies against whom action has been taken by Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995), the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any scheduled drug/formulation including imported medicines to a consumer at a price higher than the price notified/fixed by NPPA. As and when there is downward revision in the notified price of bulk drug/statutory duties, NPPA immediately revises the prices of related scheduled formulations, on *suo-moto* basis.

In respect of drugs not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. NPPA has no control on the launch price of the non-scheduled formulations. As a part of the exercise for monitoring of prices for non-scheduled formulations, manufacturers are not allowed to increase the prices of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.