

Essential medicines under price control mechanism

2061. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total number of essential medicines covered under the price control mechanism so far;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to bring in all the essential medicines under the price control regime to protect the interests of patients; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) the prices of 74 bulk drugs as listed in its First Schedule and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. There is no classification as "essential medicines" in the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995.

(b) and (c) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012 (NPPP-2012) has been notified on 7th December, 2012. As per provisions of NPPP-2012, all the medicines as specified under National List of Essential Medicines-2011 (NLEM-2011) shall be under price control. NLEM contains 614 formulations of specified strengths and dosage forms, spread over 27 therapeutic categories and satisfy the priority healthcare needs of majority of the population of the country.

Legislation for price control and monitoring of drugs

2062. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to bring in a new legislation for price control and monitoring of drugs replacing the existing regulatory frame work, Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) to meet the requirements of the new Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) will be implementing authority for the new policy and the new DPCO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) To implement the provisions of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012, the process of finalising a new Drug (Price Control) Order has started.

(c) and (d) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority is the implementation authority of existing Drug (Price Control) Order the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012 and the new Drugs (Prices Control) Order.

Promotion of low cost generic drugs

2063. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether differences have been found at large scale in the prices of essential medicines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the share of generic and non-generic medicines in the total medicine sale in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether Government is taking any steps to control the prices of drugs and to promote the use of low-cost generic drugs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) There is no classification as "essential medicines" in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. However, under the provisions of the DPCO, 1995 the prices of 74 bulk drugs as listed in its First Schedule 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 is authorized to sell any scheduled drug/ formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA. Therefore, in the case of scheduled medicines based on same chemical combinations, there may be bare minimum difference in prices among different brands.