

(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.

In respect of drugs-not covered under the DPCO, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the launch prices themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. There is no control over the launch price of non-scheduled medicines. Therefore, differences in prices among different brands of medicine based on same chemical combinations in non-scheduled category are not ruled out.

(c) The information on the share of generic and non-generic medicines in the total medicine sale in the country is not maintained centrally.

(d) and (e) The prices of scheduled drugs/ formulations are controlled and fixed/revised by NPPA as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. As a part of price-monitoring activity, NPPA also regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% in a period of one year on moving basis 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.

In order to provide relief to the common man in the area of healthcare, a countrywide campaign in the name of 'Jan Aushadhi Campaign' has been initiated by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, in collaboration with the State Governments, by way of opening up of Jan Aushadhi Generic Stores in the Government Hospitals by way of supply of generic medicines through Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings, to make available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all. So far, 149 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened in different States/UTs in the country as on 28.2.2013.

Further, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012 (NPPP-2012) notified by the Government on 7th December, 2012 has the provision of bringing the medicines under National List of Essential Medicines-2011 (NLEM-2011) under price control.

#### **Decline in manufacturing capacity of telecommunication PSUs**

2064. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the capacity of manufacturing industries in the telecommunication PSUs of the country has declined constantly in the last few years;