

Over charging of life-saving drugs by sellers

*70. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria to declare a medicine as life saving drug;
- (b) the names of medicines falling under life saving drugs;
- (c) the details of complaints received in connection with over charging by sellers of life saving drugs in Maharashtra and Delhi; and
- (d) the details of action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) The term “Life saving drugs” is not recognized under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules made thereunder. However, the Government has published a National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2011 containing 348 medicines. The primary purpose of NLEM is to promote rational use of medicines considering the three important aspects *i.e.* cost, safety and efficacy. NLEM is one of the key instruments in balanced healthcare delivery systems of the country which includes accessible, affordable quality medicines at all the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of healthcare.

Pricing of drugs is administered by the Department of Pharmaceutical and the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the provisions of the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO). The Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare do not contain provisions for pricing of drugs. Government in that Department has notified the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy and the Drugs Price Control Order, 2013 to regulate the prices of essential medicines.

Grants to PRIs and local bodies

*71. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has evaluated the outcome of the Thirteenth Finance Commissions grants to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Municipalities;
- (b) whether on the basis of such evaluation, the Ministry would recommend to the Fourteenth Finance Commission a substantial increase in such grants; and