

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

(c) whether the Ministry would propose any improvements in the scheme of untied grants to the local bodies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) The Thirteenth Finance Commission (FC-XIII) has recommended grant-in-aid to local bodies calculated each year as a percentage of the divisible pool of central taxes. This recommendation, which has been accepted by the Government, by itself ensures that the quantum of grant-in-aid to the local bodies increases along with the increase in the tax revenues of the Centre.

This grant has two components - a basic grant and a performance based component. The basic grant is untied to expenditure conditions. Release of the performance grant is subject to meeting specified conditions. These conditions are prudential rather than output-based, are concerned with processes rather than being expenditure-directed, and are expected to increase responsibility, enhance transparency and augment accountability of local bodies to the public, in line with the subsidiarity principle.

Central Monitoring Committees have been set up in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Ministry of Urban Development, with representation from the Ministry of Finance, to examine States' eligibility for performance grants, and to recommend releases. The process reform conditions are expected to provide a framework for analyzing the performance of all local bodies.

The Fourteenth Finance Commission (FC-XIV), set up in January, 2013, in making its recommendations, is to have regard to, *inter-alia*, resources of and demands on the Central Government and the State Governments. The terms of reference of FC-XIV cover measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats and Municipalities on the basis of recommendations made by the Finance Commission of that State.

Consultation by AIIMS doctors to patients who cannot visit hospital

*72. SHRI K.C. TYAGI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to provide consultation by doctors of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to patients who are critically ill or who cannot afford to visit the hospital due to distance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?