

Medicines under price control regime

1104. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of medicines under the price control regime;
- (b) whether Government intends to increase the number of medicines under price control;
- (c) if so, the details and names of the medicines proposed to be brought under price control; and
- (d) by when the order in this regard will be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) All the medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines, 2011 (NLEM, 2011) have been included in Schedule 1 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) which contains 348 drugs covering 680 formulations. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has also fixed the prices of anti-diabetic and cardiovascular in respect of 108 non-scheduled formulations.

(b) NPPA, an independent body of experts under this Department has been delegated the power under DPCO, 2013 to fix the ceiling price or retail price of any drug.

(c) and (d) Does not arise

Withdrawal/reduction of subsidy on fertilizers

†1105. SHRI NARESH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to reduce and withdraw the subsidy being given to fertilizers; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHAL CHAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Prices of essential and life-saving drugs

1106. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that essential and life-saving drugs are very costly, so that poor patients are unable to buy them;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to bring down the prices of essential and life-saving drugs; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to bring essential and life-saving drugs under price control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHAL CHAND): (a) to (c) Life saving drugs are not explicitly defined in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). All the medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines 2011 (NLEM) have been included in the Schedule I of DPCO, 2013 and brought under price control. There are 680 NLEM medicines and out of these National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed / notified the ceiling prices in respect of 440 medicines upto 30th June, 2014 under provisions of the said order. Significant reduction in prices have been effected on the medicines notified under DPCO, 2013 as compared to the highest price prevalent prior to that which differs from formulation to formulation. The overall profile of price reduction is as under:-

% reduction with respect to Highest Price to Retailer	No. of drugs
0<= 5%	35
5<=10%	41
10<=15%	49
15<=20%	40
20<=25%	58
25<=30%	43
30<=35%	27
35<=40%	34
Above 40%	113
TOTAL	440

Under DPCO, 2013, no person is authorized to sell any scheduled formulations to consumer at a price exceeding the price notified by NPPA. DPCO, 2013 also provides

that all the existing manufacturers of scheduled formulations, selling the branded or generic or both the versions of scheduled formulations at a price lower than the ceiling price (plus local taxes as applicable) so fixed and notified by the Government, shall maintain their existing maximum retail price.

Prices of generic and life saving drugs

1107. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that generic and life-saving drugs are very costly, so that poor patients are unable to buy them;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to bring down the prices of generic and life-saving drugs; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to bring generic and life-saving drugs under price control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHAL CHAND): (a) to (c) Life saving drugs are not explicitly defined in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). All the medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines 2011 (NLEM) have been included in the Schedule I of DPCO, 2013 and brought under price control. There are 680 NLEM medicines and out of these National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed / notified the ceiling prices in respect of 440 medicines upto 30th June, 2014 under provisions of the said order. Significant reduction in prices have been effected on the medicines notified under DPCO, 2013 as compared to the highest price prevalent prior to that which differs from formulation to formulation. The overall profile of price reduction is as under:-

% reduction with respect to Highest Price to Retailer	No. of drugs
1	2
0<= 5%	35
5<=10%	41
10<=15%	49
15<=20%	40