

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

1	2
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.

Merger of loss making MTNL with BSNL

1108. SHRI ANIL DESAI:

SHRI C.M. RAMESH:

SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that both MTNL and BSNL are making losses;
- (b) if so, the profit/loss status of these PSUs during the last three years;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for merger of these two PSUs, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether views of workers' unions of these PSUs are also taken into consideration to obviate any financial loss to them; and
- (e) whether the merger envisages profits to these companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited have been making losses. Details of their profit/losses during the last three years are given below: