

Withdrawal of guidelines by NPPA

665. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has withdrawn guidelines issued in May, 2014, regarding fixing price of drugs not covered in 2011 National List of Essential Medicines, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether NPPA cut price of 108 drugs in therapeutic segments of diabetes and cardiovascular by upto 35 per cent in July this year which was objected by drug industry, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has any proposal like that/adopted by Government of Tamil Nadu to buy drugs from companies at advantageous cost and supplying them at affordable prices to the needy and if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) : (a) The internal guideline issued by the NPPA on 29.05.2014 in respect of price fixation of non-scheduled single ingredient drug formulations has been withdrawn on 22.09.2014 with immediate effect as the guidelines were not found to be in consonance with the intent of para 19 under which they were issued.

(b) NPPA *vide* price notifications dated 10.07.2014 capped the MRP of 108 non-scheduled single ingredient drug formulations related to treatment of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. The price notifications have been challenged in the Delhi High Court and Bombay High Court where the matter is *sub-judice*. However, a large number of manufactures have already implemented the price reduction.

(c) An autonomous Central Procurement Agency under the name of Central Medical Services Society (CMSS) has been set up under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in March, 2012 which is responsible for procuring quality Health sector goods in a transparent and cost effective manner and distributing them to the States/UTs by setting up an IT enabled supply chain infrastructure.

Deregulation of prices of medicines

†666. SHRI PRABHAT JHA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has deregulated the prices of those medicines which are not included in the national list of essential medicines, if so the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether several medicines would become costly due to this decision and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) : (a) National List of Essential Medicines, 2011 published by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as updated or revised from time to time is included in the first schedule of Drug (Price Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). The ceiling prices of schedule formulation of specified strengths and dosages as specified under the first schedule are fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) as per the provision of DPCO 2013. The prices of formulations not specified in the first schedule *i.e.* non-scheduled formulations are not fixed by the NPPA. The prices of such non-scheduled formulations are however allowed an increase in the maximum retailed price of not more than 10% during the preceding twelve months.

(b) No, Sir. Significant reduction in prices have been effected on the medicines notified under DPCO, 2013 as compared to the highest price prevailed prior to the announcement of DPCO, 2013. The details of price reduction are as follows:

% reduction with respect to Highest prevailing Price to the Retailer	No. of drugs
0<= 5%	46
5<=10%	44
10<=15%	53
15<=20%	43
20<=25%	62
25<=30%	55
30<=35%	30
35<=40%	34
Above 40%	122
TOTAL	489

Marketing support to public sector pharmaceutical units

667. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pharmaceuticals units established by Government with sole equity of Union Government during last two decades, State-wise, particularly in Gujarat;