

(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;

(b) the number of units out of them facing acute financial crisis due to non-progressive marketing support of the Union Government, the details thereof;

(c) whether corrective measures have been taken/would be taken to promote these PSU units by providing better marketing support and issuing standing instructions to Government hospitals and State Governments to place orders to them for their annual demands contracts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) : (a) No new Pharmaceuticals unit has been established by the Government with sole equity of Union Government during the last two decades.

(b) to (d) Question do not arise.

**Putting medicines of critical diseases out of price control**

†668. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some time ago Government made provision to check the prices of more than hundred medicines with a view to relieve the patients of critical diseases like cancer, AIDS, diabetes;

(b) whether drug companies and their organization were opposing this;

(c) if so, the reasons to keep 108 drugs out of price control limit by Government;

(d) whether Government is taking steps to provide medicines to the patients of critical diseases like cancer, AIDS, diabetes at lower prices, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) (a) to (c) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (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. Out of 108 medicines, only 2 notifications were withdrawn because they were already covered as scheduled medicines. The price notifications have been challenged in the Delhi High Court and Bombay High Court where the matter is *sub-judice*. The price notifications of 10.07.2014 issued by the NPPA are still in operation.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.