

Deregulation of urea prices

2608. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to deregulate urea prices in the country;

(b) if so, the present price and subsidy given thereon; and

(c) the details of the proposal with import policy and tax to levy per bag thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Department of Fertilizers has no proposal to deregulate urea.

High prices of essential and life saving drugs

2609. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether essential and life saving drugs are very costly and are out of reach of poor patients;

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

(c) the action taken to bring essential and life saving drugs under price control;

(d) whether Government has formulated any policy of providing essential and life saving drugs free to all patients coming to public sector health facilities and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of drugs falling under essential and life saving drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (c) All the medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines 2011 (NLEM) have been included in the First Schedule of DPCO, 2013 notified on 15.05.2013 and brought under price control. However, life savings drugs have not been defined under DPCO, 2013. Out of total 680 NLEM medicines (628 net medicines) under scheduled category of DPCO, 2013, NPPA has already fixed the ceiling prices in respect of 509 medicines till date under provisions of the said order.

The details of reduction in prices scheduled formulations effected under DPCO, 2013 as compared to the highest price prevailed prior to the announcement of DPCO, 2013 are given as under:

% reduction with respect to Highest prevailing price to retailer	No. of drugs
0<= 5%	51
5<=10%	46
10<=15%	55
15<=20%	44
20<=25%	65
25<=30%	57
30<=35%	30
35<=40%	34
Above 40%	127
	509

In addition, NPPA *vide* price notifications dated 10.07.2014 has capped the MRP of 106 non-scheduled single ingredient drug formulations related to treatment of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

(d) Public Health being a State subject, under the National Health Mission (NHM), financial support is provided to the States/UTs for strengthening their healthcare delivery system including support for provision of free drugs to those who access public health facilities. The support under NHM is provided based on requirements posed by States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans. Support is also provided to States under NHM Free Drug Service Initiative subject to the State fulfilling the following conditions:

- It notifies or has a clearly notified policy of providing free essential drugs to all patients coming to public sector health facilities at least upto District Hospital level.
- It has/creates a robust procurement, logistics & supply chain system that is IT Backed.
- It has differential facility-wise Essential Drug List depending on the nature of the facility.
- It has a sound drug regulatory and quality assurance system.
- It lays down standard Treatment Guidelines and provides for prescription audits to ensure rational use of drugs.

(e) Essential drugs are listed in the National List of Essential Medicines 2011(NLEM) notified by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare .

Additional allocation to clear subsidy arrears

2610. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government requires an additional allocation of ₹ 30,000 crore to clear subsidy arrears, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the additional demand made is over and above the normal allocation, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Fertilizer had requested to Ministry of Finance for additional allocation of ₹ 32, 677.00 crore (₹ in crore) under the Head “Subsidies” in the current Financial Year 2014-15 over and above the budget allocation of ₹ 77,070.33 crore to clear the subsidy arrears. The detail is as under:

(₹ in crore)

Particular	Additional Requirement
Decontrolled P & K	5,200.00
Urea (Indigenous urea)	27,477.00

Increasing internet penetrations in the country

2611. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated any efforts to leverage on technology breakthrough ideas that Information Technology majors are pursuing to facilitate Wi-Fi for all, by providing internet connectivity to remote and rural areas across the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government is considering the vast benefits it can leverage by getting into a strategic partnership with such global innovators to help increase internet penetrations within the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government has delicensed Spectrum in 2.4 GHZ-2.4835 GHZ and 5.825 GHZ-5.875 GHZ band for outdoor use