

DPCO, 2013 provides for upward revision in the notified prices of scheduled formulations based on increase in Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in respect of previous year. Also, the existing manufacturers of these scheduled formulations selling at a price lower than the ceiling price so fixed by the NPPA are required to maintain their existing maximum retail price with the annual increase in maximum retail price as per the increase in the wholesale price index with respect to previous year. In respect of other medicines not covered under scheduled category of DPCO, 2013, the manufacturers are allowed to increase maximum retail price upto 10 per cent annually.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Setting up of drugs price monitoring cells**

511. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up drugs price monitoring cells across the country, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to strengthen regulatory mechanism of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority and to ensure compliance of its orders on retail prices of medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in which NPPA has proposed for revision/modification of the existing plan scheme of consumer awareness and publicity through print, electronic and other media.

The proposal *inter-alia*, has a component for Setting up Consumer Awareness, Price Monitoring and Resource Units at the States/Union Territories with the objective of forging better linkages with the State Drug Controllers. The Units are expected to provide necessary technical assistance to the State Drug Controllers and NPPA towards monitoring the notified prices of medicines, price movement of scheduled/ non-scheduled medicines etc.

NPPA and State Drug Controllers regularly procure samples of medicines from the market to verify compliance to ceiling price/ceiling on annual price revision. In case of price violations, NPPA initiates action for recovery of overcharged amount along with interest.