

included in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2011. Hence, DES falls under non-scheduled category of Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO), 2013 and as such, no ceiling price has been fixed for stents. However, DPCO, 2013 provides for monitoring the prices of non-scheduled formulations also to ensure that no manufacturer/importer / distributor is allowed to increase the MRP of a non-scheduled drug more than ten per cent of MRP during preceding twelve months.

Affordable drugs for Hepatitis C

1820. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that around 2 crore Indians affected with Hepatitis C could not afford the medical treatment for this disease due to costly affairs;
- (b) if so, Government's response thereto; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for encouraging private pharmaceuticals companies for providing effective drugs at nominal rates?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA):

(a) and (b) The figures of Hepatitis C affected Indians who could not afford medical treatment are not collected centrally. However, the cost of treatment for Hepatitis C is high for the cases which require treatment.

The Government of India has launched a National Programme for prevention and control of viral Hepatitis during Twelfth Five Year Plan period under which the activities undertaken, *inter alia*, are:

1. Laboratory network for laboratory based surveillance of viral hepatitis in different geographical locations of India, in a phased manner.
2. Setting up of one Reference Laboratory at National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi.
3. Training and capacity building of professionals in relevant sectors, like Microbiologists, Laboratory Technicians, Data Managers and Field Workers.

4. Laboratory support for outbreak investigation of hepatitis through established network of laboratories.
5. Development of guidelines and creating awareness for prevention and control and treatment of blood borne and water borne hepatitis.
6. Information, Education and communications (IEC) for dissemination of information about prevention and control of viral hepatitis.

(c) Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has granted import and marketing permission on 13th January, 2015 for Sofosubuvir 400 mg tablet (brand name Sovaldi) manufactured by M/s Gilead Science Ltd., to M/s Mylan Pharma Pvt. Ltd. for treatment of chronic Hepatitis C in adults.

Subsequently, CDSCO has also granted permission to manufacture and market Sofosubuvir 400 mg tablet in March, 2015 to Indian manufacturers namely, M/s Hetero Labs. and Natco Pharma. CDSCO has no information about cost of the drug.

National policy on quality control of drugs

†1821. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any national level policy regarding quality control of drugs has been formulated, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether this policy has even been evaluated and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA) : (a) While no such national policy has been formulated, under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder, elaborate provisions have been made to ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of the drugs in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

Faculty and infrastructure requirement of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

1822. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of AIIMS established during present and previous Governments;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.