

**Regulating of prices charged by hospitals on medical devices**

2540. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medical devices like stents, pacemakers, valves, artificial joints and titanium plates for fractures etc. are not available in the open market and as such patients cannot check prices of these items;

(b) whether it is a fact that hospitals are looting patients by forcing them to buy these medical devices from hospitals and pay double or even triple the price for medical devices at hospitals; and

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to constitute a regulatory authority to regulate and prescribe ceiling rates that hospitals can charge for medical procedures and devices?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) Though devices such as stents, pacemakers, valves, artificial joints and titanium plates are generally not available in the open market, the Maximum Retail price (MRP) is required to be printed thereon.

(b) The Department of Pharmaceuticals has informed that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority under the Department of Pharmaceuticals has, during a study conducted on pricing of stents in the country, observed that bulk of medical devices such as stents, catheters and arthopaedic implants, etc., consumed in the country, are imported and the difference between the landed cost and the MRP thereof is very high. These medical devices fall under non-scheduled category of Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO), 2013 and as such, no ceiling price has been fixed for these devices. However, DPCO, 2013 provides for monitoring the prices of these devices and also ensure that no manufacturer / importer / distributor is allowed to increase the MRP more than ten percent of MRP during preceding twelve months.

(c) There is no such proposal.

**Fees charged by banks on issue of credit cards**

2541. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER:

SHRI SALIM ANSARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI have issued guidelines I circular from time to time to scheduled commercial banks stating therein that high fees being charged for issue of credit cards is not justifiable and permissible;