

Controlling price of stents

1156. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has revealed that hospitals make a killing on stents by 10-65 per cent on each stent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Ministry is taking to regulate and control the price of stent and to make it accessible to the needy and poor patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) notified the ceiling price of Coronary Stent *vide* its notification dated 13th February 2017 at ₹ 7,260/- for Bare Metal Stent and ₹ 29,600/- for Drug Eluting Stents (DES) including metallic DES and Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (BVS)/Biodegradable Stents. The average MRP before price notification was ₹ 45,100 for Bare Metal Stent (BMS) and ₹ 121,400 for Drug Eluting Stent (DES) and the maximum trade margins were being charged at the level of hospitals. Price regulation by bringing down the prices of stents BMS (74%) and DES (85%) has made stents affordable for use of needy.

Transparency in price fixation of medical equipments

1157. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the price fixation of medical equipments/products in pharma industry is not transparent; and

(b) if so, whether any regulations and regulatory authority is to be set up for fair price in pharma industry, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) The initial price fixation/price determination is not under the purview of Government. Government only controls price of medical devices declared as essential drugs. Out of 23 Medical Devices regulated as “Drugs” under Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder. Three devices namely ‘Condom’, ‘IUD containing copper’ and ‘Coronary Stents’ have been included in the Schedule-I of Drugs (Price Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) and are under price control. The remaining 20 medical devices are categorized as non-scheduled formulations under DPCO, 2013 and therefore,

no price has been fixed for these non-scheduled medical devices. However, manufacturers are not allowed to increase the price of these 20 medical devices more than 10% per annum.

(b) Pharma Industry is regulated under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder. Central Drug Controller is the regulatory authority for pharma industry. National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) is the regulator for the prices of drugs declared as essential under National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM).

Expansion of Jan Aushadhi Kendras

1158. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to expand the Jan Aushadhi Kendras in every Block and Gram Panchayat across the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Group of Secretaries have recommended for penalizing doctors for not prescribing generic medicines; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that branded medicines are five times costlier than generic medicines, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) The main objective of the Government is to open maximum number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) in the country. The scheme guidelines have been amended to provide that any Government agency can open Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) in any Government building owned by Government bodies including Urban Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions. Moreover, the application format has been simplified and the application fee has been waived to popularize the scheme and attracting more applicants. The Government is endeavoring to start kendras wherever eligible applicants are available.

(b) The group of Secretaries have made several recommendation for promotion of generic medicines.

(c) Yes, it is a fact that some branded medicines are many times costlier than generic medicines. Some of the examples are shown in the below table:-