

Increase in dealer margin of fertilizer retailers

36. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to increase dealer margin for fertilizer retailers, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the increase in dealer margin is likely to adversely affect farmers using fertilizers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to insulate farmers, especially marginal farmers in Rajasthan, from rise in fertilizer costs due to increase in dealer margin, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of Department of Fertilizers.

Pricing of Generic Drugs

37. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is aware of the exorbitant prices levied by private pharmaceutical companies on generic drugs in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the initiatives taken by the Ministry to curb these practices by private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Both generic and branded medicines are treated alike for fixation of ceiling price under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). As per DPCO, 2013, all manufacturers of Scheduled medicines (branded or generic) have to sell their products within the ceiling price fixed by the Government. As regards non-scheduled formulations, the manufacturers are not allowed to increase the price by more than 10 % per annum.

The Government is effectively monitoring the prices of scheduled medicines and takes action against companies found overcharging the consumers based on the references received from the State Drugs Controllers / individuals, samples purchased from the open market and reports from market based data and complaints reported through the grievance redressal websites, 'Pharma Jan Samadhan' and 'Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)'.