(d) and (e) The medicines included in National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) announced by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are included in the Schedule-I of DPCO, 2013. The ceiling prices of these medicines are fixed by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).

Action against pharma companies for overcharging

2455. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has brought medicines under price control in order to make medicines available to common man at low prices;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that, in spite of announcement by Government, the prices of medicines have not been reduced by pharmaceutical companies;

(c) if so, the details of such companies;

(d) the action taken by Government against such companies; and

(e) the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes Sir, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the ceiling prices of 851 scheduled formulations under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). The fixation of ceiling prices has resulted in reduction of prices as follows:

Statement showing reduction in ceiling prices of scheduled formulations with respect to maximum price under NELM 2015 as on 28.2.2018

% reduction with respect to Maximum Price	No. of scheduled formulations
0<= 5%	234
5<=10%	134
10<=15%	98
15<=20%	98
20<=25%	93
25<=30%	65
30<=35%	46
35<=40%	24
Above 40%	59
TOTAL formulations in NLEM 2015	851

(b) to (e) As per the provisions of DPCO, 2013, prices are monitored by NPPA regularly. As and when companies are found violating the ceiling prices, they are issued demand notices for recovery of overcharged amount. Since the inception of NPPA, 1752 demand notices (including *suo-moto* deposits) have been issued to pharmaceutical companies for overcharging for an amount of ₹ 5976.23 crore. Amount to the tune of ₹ 820.67 crore has been deposited by the companies and an amount of ₹ 3825 crore is under litigation. The demand notices are issued under various provisions of DPCO, 1995 and DPCO, 2013 read with Section 7A of Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The detailed list of overcharging cases, in which demand notices have been issued is available on the website of NPPA *(www.nppa.nic.in)* and updated from time to time.

Model Fertilizers Retail Shops

2456. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to open Model Fertilizers Retail Shops to provide quality fertilizers and for hiring of farming equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of operational and planned Retail Shops, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. During Budget 2016-17, it was announced that over a period of three years, 2000 Model Fertilizer Retail Shops would be opened across the country. Model Fertilizer Retail Shops provide mandatory services like selling of quality fertilizers at genuine rates, soil testing, seed testing, promotion of balanced use of nutrients etc. Some optional services are also provided through these shops like hiring of equipment such as tractors, laser bevelers, rotavator, crop harvester and thrashers, hiring of sprayers, sale of small implements like spades and sickles etc. The target has been achieved and 2044 Model Fertilizer Retail Shops have been made operational. A State-wise details of Model Fertilizer Retail Shops are given in Statement.