

**Pending cases for overcharging of patients on
essential medicines**

2277. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases, at present, against pharma companies initiated by National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) for over charging of patients on essential medicines and number of pending cases along with the amount involved therein; and

(b) whether Government has taken any steps for early disposal of such pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) At present, 1069 number of overcharging cases, initiated by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) against pharma companies, are pending. The overcharging cases involve a total amount of ₹ 5,480.89 crore under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO) and the DPCO, 1995, out of which an amount of ₹ 4, 032.55 crore is under litigation in various courts.

(b) Action for recovery of the overcharged amount is taken as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995 and the DPCO, 2013. In case the concerned company does not deposit the amount of demand, the matter is referred to the concerned District Collector for recovery of the overcharged amount as arrears of land revenue under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The cases referred to the District Collectors are also followed up on regular basis by issuing reminders. In some cases, the demands raised for overcharging have been challenged by the pharma companies in various courts. The NPPA is actively pursuing these court cases.

Price control on drug formulations by NPPA

2278. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government, through National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), has identified the drug formulations for medical treatment of diseases for imposing price restriction to make the same available to patients including those from weaker sections;

(b) if so, the diseases and the drug formulations so far identified; and

(c) what special measures Government proposes to take to ensure that the quality of drugs is not compromised while putting restrictions on their price?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes the ceiling price of scheduled formulations specified in Schedule I of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO). The first schedule of the DPCO contains those formulations which are included in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2015 prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The NLEM, 2015 contains 377 medicines which are used in treatment of various diseases under 30 different therapeutic categories.

The NPPA has also capped the prices of 106 formulations related to treatment of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases under para 19 of the DPCO vide order dated 10th July, 2014. The NPPA has further fixed the ceiling price of coronary stents in February, 2017 and of knee implants in August, 2017.

Further, NPPA *vide* order SO 1041(E) dated 27th February, 2019 has put a cap on trade margin of 42 selected non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines under 'Trade Margin Rationalisation' approach.

The details of prices fixed for scheduled formulations, 106 anti-diabetes and cardiovascular medicines, coronary stents, knee implants and anti-cancer medicines are available on NPPA's website www.nppaindia.nic.in.

(c) The drug manufacturers/marketers in the country are required to comply with the standards as prescribed under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder. The NPPA has not received any report on quality of medicines being compromised due to price regulation.

Impact on exports due to decline in export credit

2279. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is aware that there is a sharp decline in export credit given by banks during the last three-four years;

(b) if so, whether Ministry has ever tried to find out the reasons behind this;

(c) the short and long-term measures that have so far been taken to correct the situation and how the above decline has impacted the exports;

(d) whether any consultations have been held with RBI to provide some credit from its currency reserves; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?