

**Prices of anti-cancer medicines**

2120. DR. VIKAS MAHATME:

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:

DR. PRABHAKAR KORE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the prices of anti-cancer medicines are high in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that cancer patients incur a large portion of their treatment money on anti-cancer medicines only;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has taken any steps to control the prices of anti-cancer medicines; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The cost of both patented and generic chemotherapeutics is significantly less in India than in most other countries, yet, these medicines are not easily affordable to a large section of society due to low population coverage with insurance programs and low average household income levels.

(c) and (d) The treatment of cancer is multimodal, incorporating mainly radiotherapy, chemotherapy and surgery depending on the site and stage of disease. The intent to treat is curative where it is reasonable to expect complete response and sustained remission. The rest of cases receive treatment directed towards palliation of symptoms or supportive care. 70% of all cases who are treated with curative intent receive chemotherapy either primarily, or prior to or adjunct to radiation or surgery. Similarly 40% of palliative treatment comprise of chemotherapy. Chemotherapy forms a part of treatment for nearly 60% of cancer patients, often being administered as an adjunct to definitive surgery or radiotherapy.

(e) and (f) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the ceiling prices of 81 anti-cancer scheduled formulations under the National List of Essential Medicines, 2015 (NLEM, 2015).

Further, the NPPA, *vide* order S.O. 1041(E) dated 27th February, 2019, put a cap on Trade Margin of 42 select non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines under 'Trade Margin Rationalisation' Approach. By this approach, the MRP of 526 brands of these medicines have been reduced by upto 90%. This move will result in an approx annual savings of around ₹ 984 crore to the patients. The details of prices fixed by the NPPA is available on the website of the NPPA i.e. [nppaindia.nic.in](http://nppaindia.nic.in).

#### **Authorizing private entities to import fertilizers**

2121. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has authorized any private entities to import fertilizers from foreign countries;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has put in any mechanism to monitor the activities of the private fertilizer importers to ensure the timely supply of fertilizers to farmers;
- (d) if so, details thereof; and
- (e) if not, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) No Sir, the Government has not authorized any private entity to import fertilizers from foreign countries.

Import of fertilizers (other than Urea) is free and on private account under OGL, commonly known as Open General Licence (OGL). Various companies import these fertilizers as per their commercial judgment, and not by any authorisation by the Government.

Urea is under statutory price control and presently for its direct agriculture use, the import on Government account is permitted through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) namely MMTC Limited (MMTC), State Trading Corporation Limited (STC) and