

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS**

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1962
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12th March, 2021

Prices of life-saving drugs

1962 Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:
Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):

Will the Minister of **Chemicals and Fertilizers** be pleased to state:

- (a) the numbers of life-saving drugs whose prices have been decreased recently by Government;
- (b) the details of the decrease in prices in terms of percentage;
- (c) whether Government proposes to decrease the prices of more life-saving drugs in the near future;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the current status of the availability of generic medicines in the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA)**

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare publishes the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), which is incorporated in the Schedule - I of the Drugs (Price Control) Order. There is no separate categorization in NLEM about life-saving drugs. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals fixes the ceiling price of scheduled formulations as per the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). The Schedule-I of DPCO, 2013 was last amended by adopting NLEM, 2015 consisting of 377 medicines. NPPA has fixed the ceiling prices of 881 scheduled formulations of medicines under NLEM, 2015. The details of price fixed are available on NPPA's website, www.nppaindia.nic.in.

The details of the decrease in prices in terms of percentage based on the ceiling price fixation of 881 scheduled formulations are as follows:

% reduction with respect to Maximum Price	No. of formulations
0<= 5%	242
5<=10%	140
10<=15%	104
15<=20%	101
20<=25%	93
25<=30%	69
30<=35%	46
35<=40%	26
Above 40%	60

(c) & (d): The ceiling price fixation of scheduled medicines is an ongoing process and is taken as and when the medicines are incorporated as scheduled formulations in DPCO from the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM).

(e): The Department of Pharmaceuticals is implementing a Scheme namely “Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana” (PMBJP) through which Generic Medicines are being sold in the country through its 7500 dedicated outlets “Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra” (PMBJK). At present 1450 Medicines and 204 Surgicals are available in the product basket of PMBJP. In general, there is no shortage of generic or non-generic medicines in the country. However, whenever any information is received about non-availability of medicine at any place of the country, the same is immediately addressed and resolved.
