

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *246
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st December, 2021

Selling medicines at higher prices

246 Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar:

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

- (a) whether Government has any information regarding the pharma companies which are selling medicines at prices higher than the price capped by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority(NPPA);
- (b) if so, the detailed list thereof, State- wise;
- (c) whether any action has been taken or notices been issued, so far, by NPPA to such companies; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(Dr. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. *246 for answer on 21.12.2021 by Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar regarding 'Selling medicines at higher prices'

(a): National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) monitors the prices of both scheduled and non-scheduled formulations on regular basis as per provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Orders (DPCOs) to check overcharging by the pharmaceutical companies. Whenever companies are found to be overcharging the consumers in sale of medicine, NPPA issues notices to the companies to deposit the overcharged amount along with applicable interest and penalty, wherever applicable.

(b): The detailed list of overcharging cases where demand notices have been issued is available on NPPA's website www.nppaindia.nic.in.

(c) & (d): Up to 31st March, 2021, NPPA has issued about 2,128 demand notices (1345 cases under the DPCO, 1995 and 783 cases under DPCO, 2013) to pharmaceutical companies for their having overcharged consumers on the sale of formulations/medicines at prices above the ceiling/retail price notified by NPPA. The action for recovery of the overcharged amount is a continuous and on-going process, undertaken as per extant provisions of various DPCOs issued from time to time. The total demanded amount by NPPA works out to be about Rs. 9407.36 crore, out of which an amount of about Rs. 1308.58 crore has been deposited by the companies to the Government. In respect of 334 cases, the demands raised for overcharging amounting to Rs. 6,612.10 crore have been challenged in various courts.
