

No. 31011/ 3 /2017-Policy
Government of India
Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers
Department of Pharmaceuticals
(Policy Section)

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi,
Dated, the 6th April, 2017

PUBLIC NOTICE

Medicines constitute a major portion of the high out of pocket expense of a patient. The Government has since 1962 have issued orders for controlling the prices of medicines. Since 1970 onwards these orders have been issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The last Drugs (Prices Control) Order-2013 was notified by the Government on 15th May, 2013.

2. The Department has received various requests/representations including from the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), the Pharma Industry Associations and other stake holders suggesting improvements in the provisions of DPCO-2013 based on the experience gained during its implementation.

3. In the light of these representations and to further improve the availability, affordability and accessibility of drugs for the domestic patients, the Government in the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers has decided to constitute a group consisting of the following members:-

- (i) Joint Secretary (Policy), D/o Pharmaceuticals
- (ii) Joint Secretary (NIPER & PSU), D/o Pharmaceuticals
- (iii) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- (iv) Joint Secretary & Member Secretary, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority(NPPA)
- (v) Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)
- (vi) Executive Director, National Health System Resource Centre (NHSRC)

to recommend to the Government further steps in this regard.

Director (Policy), D/o Pharmaceuticals shall be the Convener of the group. The Terms of Reference of the Committee is as under:-

- i. Measures to be taken for making pricing policy more in favour of poor patient's affordable Medicare and Health Security;
- ii. Review the scope of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013), and to suggest ways for strengthening the regulatory provisions of the order;
- iii. Suggest ways for making the existing mechanisms for collection of market-based data on prices of medicines more robust and stream-lined and for strengthening the existing pharmaceutical database management system.

- iv. Procedural improvements and process re-engineering in NPPA to ensure better and quicker implementation of Government Policy (Drug Price Control Order) and bring greater transparency so as to reduce litigations and review petitions. Draft detailed Standard Operating Protocol (SOPs) may be recommended for identified regulatory functions such as pricing of medicines, monitoring and enforcement activities, action against pharmaceutical companies in overpricing cases etc.;
 - v. Suggest ways to make DPCO, 2013 more comprehensive in light of past experience of implementing DPCO.
 - vi. The Group may also consult other Government agencies, officials or representatives of industry or civil society in the interest of a more effective DPCO.
4. In the First Meeting of the Committee held on 6th April, 2017, it has been decided to invite comments/suggestions from all stakeholder including Civil Societies/NGOs etc.
5. You are requested to send your comments/suggestions urgently and latest by 01/05/2017 (chaudhary.ak@nic.in)
