

Medicines cheaper as govt caps prices

By **Mail Today Bureau**
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THE GOVERNMENT has capped prices of 11 essential drugs while those of 22 such medicines have been revised, including those used for treatment of cancer, HIV, bacterial infections and acid reflux.

NPPA has fixed/revised ceiling prices of 33 scheduled formulations of Schedule-I under Drugs (Price Control) Amendment Order, 2017 in related notification /order dated 24.01.2017, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) said in a statement.

The ceiling prices of 11 scheduled formulations have been notified while ceiling price of 22 scheduled formulations have been revised, it added. As stipulated under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO) 2013, NPPA fixes ceiling price of essential medicines of Schedule I.

In respect of medicines not under price control, manufacturers are allowed to increase the maximum retail price by 10 per cent annually.

The calculation for essential drugs is based on the simple average of all medicines in a particular therapeutic segment with sales of more than 1 per cent. The government had notified the DPCO 2013, which covers 680 formulations, with effect from May 15, 2014, replacing the 1995 order that regulated prices of only 74 bulk drugs.