Foreign cos asked to give price details of imported drugs

NPPA Move Aimed at Checking Exorbitant Prices of Some Drugs

By Mystery

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The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has ordered a half a dozen global pharmaceutical companies, including two American firms, to submit details of the prices of about 60 different drugs they market in India within a week or else face action under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

"Some of the companies have not been very responsive. We made it clear that if they delay in giving us the details of the prices in their dossier, we may have to take action under the Act," said an NPPA official.

NPPA officials said the companies had not responded to the authority despite a written request sent to them on December 9, asking them to submit, within a week, details of prices, manufacturing and import costs of 60 drugs.

Companies were also asked to submit details of the prices at which the drugs were being sold in international markets and a comparison of prices.

"The companies have until December 17 to submit the details to us," said another NPPA official.

NPPA's action is in line with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, which empowers the government to regulate drug prices, if necessary.

"In case the companies do not respond, we will have to take action under the Act," said an NPPA official.

The NPPA has widened its ambit by asking for details on about 60 drugs, which will now lead to a comprehensive study on the drug prices.

The NPPA had earlier asked companies to submit details of the prices of 20 drugs. The authorities have been receiving complaints from the public about the exorbitant prices of some drugs.

"We have received complaints from various quarters about the prices of some drugs," said an NPPA official.

The companies have been asked to submit details of the prices of the following drugs:

- Acyclovir
- Cefuroxime
- Clarithromycin
- Erythromycin
- Furosemide
- Metformin
- Metoprolol
- Nortriptyline
- Paracetamol
- Prednisolone
- Sulfamethoxazole
- Thiocolchicoside
- Tocol
- Cefadroxil
- Ciprofloxacin
- Dexamethasone
- Doxycycline
- Efavirenz
- Etodolac
- Itraconazole
- Fludrocortisone
- Isoniazid
- Ivermectin
- Loperamide
- Meloxicam
- Mefloquine
- Metronidazole
- Moxifloxacin
- Paroxetine
- Pantoprazole
- Perindopril
- Tamsulosin
- Tenofovir
- Tolmetin
- Tiotropium
- Tizanidine
- Tramadol
- Valsartan
- Voriconazole

The companies have said they are acting on the advice of the NPPA and will comply with the request.

"We are acting on the advice of the NPPA," said a spokesperson for one of the companies.

The NPPA has been under pressure from the public and the government to control the prices of some drugs, which have been rising steadily.

"We will continue to monitor the prices of these drugs," said an NPPA official.

The NPPA has been receiving complaints from various quarters about the exorbitant prices of some drugs.

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