

NPPA powers: Dept of Pharmaceuticals passes buck to law ministry

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: A day after *Millennium Post* reported about withdrawing the price control powers of apex drug watchdog — National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) — Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers on Wednesday passed the buck to Law ministry headed by Ravi Shankar Prasad for the power withdrawal fiasco.

The Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, which is headed by Ananth Kumar, affirmed that the guidelines regarding fixing the powers of NPPA was issued after careful consideration in consultation with the

Ministry of Law and Justice that had decided to convey to the Bombay and Delhi High Court that the guidelines dated 29 May are to be withdrawn.

The official note of the ministry also stated that the guidelines dated 29 May and orders dated 10 July have been challenged in Bombay and Delhi High Court.

The ministry further stated that the action of NPPA dated 22 September needs to be seen in the above context.

The government has neither withdrawn the powers delegated to NPPA on 30 May last year nor has the drug watchdog been directed to withdraw the 10 July orders.

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