

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *145#
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15th March, 2022

Availability of drugs at reasonable price

145 # Shri Naresh Bansal:

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

- (a) the steps being taken by Government to control the prices of drugs and to provide drugs at affordable/reasonable rates to the poor;
- (b) whether there are benefits of opening Pradhan Mantri Janaushadhi Kendras;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken to make pharmaceutical companies self-reliant by way of increasing indigenous resources in the country?

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. *145# for answer on 15.03.2022 by Shri Naresh Bansal regarding 'Availability of drugs at reasonable price'.

(a): National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the aegis of the Department of Pharmaceuticals fixes the ceiling price of scheduled medicines as per provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013. In case of non-scheduled medicines, a manufacturer is at liberty to fix the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) launched by it, but is not allowed to increase the MRP of such formulations by more than 10% per annum. NPPA has fixed ceiling prices of 886 scheduled formulations & 4 scheduled medical devices and fixed retail prices of 1,817 new drugs. In addition, it has fixed ceiling price of Orthopedic Knee Implants under Para 19 of DPCO, 2013 in public interest. Moreover, under "Trade Margin Rationalisation" Approach, the NPPA has fixed Trade Margin of non-scheduled formulations of 42 select Anti-cancer medicines and recently during COVID-19 pandemic, regulated the prices of Oxygen Concentrators, Pulse Oximeter, Blood Pressure Monitoring Machine, Nebulizer, Digital Thermometer and Glucometer.

(b) and (c): With an objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) has been launched by the Government wherein dedicated outlets are opened to provide quality generic medicines at cheaper rates to the citizens. Under the Scheme, till 28.02.2022, about 8,689 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) have been opened across the country, covering all districts of the country. Jan Aushadhi Medicines are cheaper by 50 -90% of market prices of branded medicines. During the current financial year (till 28.02.2022), total sales of Rs. 814.21 cr. has been achieved, which has led to estimated savings of approximately Rs. 4,800 cr. to the citizens.

(d): In order to attain self-reliance in the pharmaceutical sector, develop global champions and to retain position of the country as 'Pharmacy of the world', the government has launched two Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes. PLI scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/ Drug Intermediates (DIs)/ Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) was launched with total financial outlay of Rs. 6,940 crore. Under the scheme, 49 applicants have already been approved. The other PLI Scheme for Pharmaceuticals has a total financial outlay of Rs. 15,000 crore. Under this scheme, 55 applicants have been selected. In addition, the department has launched a Scheme for Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks with a total outlay of Rs. 3,000 cr wherein financial assistance is to be provided for creation of Common Infrastructure Facilities in 3 Bulk Drug Parks.
