

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS**

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1457
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20th December, 2022

Supply of medicines at affordable rates

1457 # Shri Narhari Amin:

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

- (a) whether there is any special scheme to provide medicines at affordable rates to the common people living in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the total amount of medicines made available in the rural areas during the last two years under this scheme; and
- (c) the total consignment of medicines made available in rural areas of Gujarat in the last two years and the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA)**

(a): With an objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all, especially the poor and the deprived ones, *Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana* (PMBJP) was launched by the government in the year 2008. Under the scheme, dedicated outlets known as *Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras* (PMBJKs) are opened all over the country to provide generic medicines to the masses. Till 30.11.2022, about 8,916 PMBJKs have been opened all across the country.

(b) & (c): Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), the implementing agency of the Scheme has opened four warehouses at Gurugram, Chennai, Guwahati and Surat, which are backed by SAP based inventory management system. In addition, there is a strong network of 36 distributors across the country. Medicines are supplied to the Kendras all across the country, including in rural areas, through this wide network wherein Kendra owners have an option to procure either from distributors or PMBI warehouse directly. During the financial year 2020-21, medicines and surgical devices worth about Rs. 665.83 Crore and in financial year 2021-22 worth about Rs. 893.56 Crore have been sold in the entire country.

About 1,759 medicines and 280 surgical devices have been included in the product basket covering all major therapeutic groups, viz., Analgesic & Antipyretic / Anti-inflammatory, Antidiabetic, Anti-biotic and Anti-Fungal, Cardiovascular System (CVS), Central Nerve System (CNS), Dermatology/Topical / External, Supplements / Vitamins & Minerals, Eye / Ear drops, Gastrointestinal (GIT), Respiratory, Anti-cancer, Steroids & Hormones, etc. Further, Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkins are also being made available for sale @ Rs.1/ per pad only.

As per information provided by PMBI, during the Financial Year 2021-22 sale of about Rs. 27.10 crore was made in the state of Gujarat which has led to estimated savings of about Rs. 160 crore to the citizens as compared to the branded medicines. In the current financial year up to 30.11.2022, PMBI has made a sale of Rs. 24.12 crore in the State.
