

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2572
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH AUGUST, 2025

Medicines available at Jan Aushadhi Kendras

2572 Shri R. Dharmar:

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

- (a) the total number of generic medicines available under Jan Aushadhi Kendra scheme and list of medicines included in the program;
- (b) the efforts being made by Government to increase awareness about the benefits of generic medicines among the public, especially in rural and remote areas;
- (c) whether Government has faced any challenges in promoting the use of generic medicines and if so, the steps being taken to overcome them; and
- (d) the total number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras that have been opened in Tamil Nadu and the target number of centers to be established by the end of the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (c): The Government launched the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana scheme to make quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all. Under the scheme, dedicated outlets known as Jan Aushadhi Kendras are opened across the country to provide medicines at rates that are about 50% to 80% cheaper than those of branded medicines, resulting in savings of about ₹38,000 crore to citizens in comparison to the prices of leading branded medicines in the market. 2,110 medicines and 315 surgicals, medical consumables and devices are under the scheme product basket, covering all major therapeutic groups, such as cardiovascular, anti-cancers, anti-diabetic, anti-infectives, anti-allergic and gastro-intestinal medicines and nutraceuticals. List of the scheme product basket is available on the scheme website (<https://janaushadhi.gov.in/productportfolio/ProductmrpList>).

To spread awareness about the scheme and the benefits of generic medicines, and to address implementation challenges that may arise due to lack of awareness, the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India, which is the scheme implementing agency, regularly undertakes several activities including the following:

- (i) Issuance of advertisements in various modes, such as the print media, radio, television, mobile application, cinema, hoardings, branding of bus queue shelters and buses, auto wrapping and television screens at Common Service Centres;
- (ii) Outreach through social media platforms; and
- (iii) Celebration of Jan Aushadhi Diwas on the 7th of March every year.

Further, as per information obtained from the Department of Health and Family Welfare, the Directorate General of Health Services has directed all Central Government hospitals to prescribe generic medicines only, and similar instructions have also been issued to prescribe drugs with generic name to all Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) doctors and wellness centres. States have also been advised to ensure prescription of generic drugs in public health facilities.

In addition, paragraph 1.5 of the Code of Medical Ethics in the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 requires that every physician should prescribe drugs with generic names legibly and preferably in capital letters and that the physician shall ensure that there is a rational prescription and use of drugs. Moreover, the Medical Council of India has issued circulars dated 22.11.2012, 18.1.2013 and 21.4.2017 directing all registered medical practitioners to comply with the said requirement.

(d): Under the scheme, a total of 16,912 Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) have been opened till 30.6.2025, out of which 1,432 JAKs have been opened in the State of Tamil Nadu. Government has decided to increase the number of JAKs opened to 20,000 by 31.3.2026. There is no State- and Union-territory-wise target for opening of JAKs.
