

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 719
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH FEBRUARY, 2017**

Access of Drugs to Poor

719. SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that access of drugs to poor people has not improved; and
- (b) if so, the effective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS;
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)**

- (a) & (b): Public Health being a state subject, it is for the States/UTs to draw up such action plans as per their need. Under the National Health Mission (NHM), financial and technical support is provided to the States/UTs for strengthening their healthcare delivery system including support for provision of essential drugs free of cost to those who access public health facilities. An incentive of upto 5% additional funding (over and above the normal allocation of the state) under the NHM is provided to those states that effectively implement free essential medicines initiative. All the States/UTs have reported that they have notified free drug policy in their respective States/UTs. Further, in order to provide relief to the common man in the area of healthcare, a countrywide campaign for ensuring availability of quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all, in the name of 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) has been started. As on date, there are 773 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) functioning over 26 States/UTs of the country. The product basket of PMBJP contains more than 600 medicines and 154 surgicals and consumables.
