

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 505
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9th December, 2022

Availability of Medicines at JAKs

†505. **SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:**
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:

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

- (a) whether there is any difference between the cost/price of branded medicines and the medicines being provided at Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to open more warehouses for the storage of Janaushadhi/generic medicines in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the availability of medicines at JAKs, so that the patients are not forced to buy branded medicines at higher prices;
- (d) whether the imported medicines are costlier than generic medicines, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make these medicines available on affordable prices; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to bring awareness and trust about the effectiveness of generic medicines among the poor people?

ANSWER

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

(a): Under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) implemented by the Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), a registered society under the aegis of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, a medicine is priced on the principle of a maximum of 50% of the average price of the top three branded medicines. Thus, the prices of Jan Aushadhi Medicines are cheaper at least by 50% and in some cases by 80% to 90% of the market price of branded medicines.

(b): Presently, there are four warehouses at Gurugram (Haryana), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Guwahati (Assam) and Surat (Gujarat) supported by a strong network of 36 distributors spread all across the country, which sufficiently meets the demands of various Jan Aushadhi Kendras(JAKs). PMBI will decide on opening of new warehouses, if any, based on its operational requirements.

(c): In order to ensure availability of medicines at more than 8900 Jan Aushadhi Kendras all across the country, an Information Technology (IT) enabled end-to-end supply chain system has been implemented in PMBJP. A Point of Sales (PoS) application for all Kendra owners

provides them easy access to procure medicines. These are backed by SAP based inventory management system for demand forecasting. Further, sufficient availability of medicines has also been ensured in warehouses.

(d) & (e): Prices of medicines in the country are regulated/ monitored by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) as per provisions of the Drugs Prices Control Order, 2013. As indicated above, the prices of Jan Aushadhi Medicines are cheaper by 50% or more of the market price of branded medicines in the country. The government has opened more than 8,900 PMBJKs all across the country to make generic medicines available on affordable prices

(f): Department/ PMBI is spreading awareness about the scheme through advertisements in Print Media, Radio, TV & Cinema as well as Outdoor publicity like Hoardings, Bus Queue Shelter branding, Bus branding, Auto wrapping, etc. In addition, public is educated about the benefits of Jan Aushadhi generic medicines and the scheme through social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube, etc. regularly. PMBI also maintains a mobile application namely 'Janaushadhi Sugam', which is an important facility for the general public by providing a digital platform by virtue of which they can avail a host of user-friendly options like - locate nearby PMBJK (direction guided through Google Maps), search Janaushadhi medicines, telephone numbers, etc. Further, Jan Aushadhi Diwas is celebrated every year on 7th March for further dissemination and spreading awareness about the Scheme.
