

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2791  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

**Jan Aushadhi Kendras**

†2791. **SHRI DULAL CHANDRA GOSWAMI:**

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

- (a) the details on the difference between the prices of branded and generic medicines;
- (b) whether the prices of branded medicines are determined by the companies in arbitrary manner or there is any price determination mechanism for this purpose and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendra set up under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) with an objective to provide generic medicines to patients along with the State-wise details thereof;
- (d) whether the patients are forced to purchase branded medicines due to the unavailability of generic medicines at Jan Aushadhi Kendras and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details on amount of funds spent on promotion of PMBJP during the last five years, yearwise?

**ANSWER**

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

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(a) and (b): The term 'Generic Medicine' has not been specifically defined in the Drug and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 made thereunder. However, generic medicines are considered as those medicines those generally contain same amount of same active ingredient(s) in same dosage form and are intended to be administered by the same route of administration as that of branded medicine. The price of an unbranded generic version of a medicine (commonly referred to as traded generic) is often lower than the price of a corresponding branded medicine because in case of generic version.

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals fixes the ceiling prices of scheduled formulations (branded or generic) included in Schedule-I of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013. All manufacturers of scheduled medicines have to sell their products within the ceiling price (plus applicable Goods and Service Tax) fixed by the NPPA. Annual revision of ceiling prices of scheduled medicines is permissible, based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for all commodities in the preceding year. As regard other non-scheduled formulations (branded or generic), a manufacturer is at liberty to fix the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of the same. However, no manufacturer can increase the MRP by more than 10% of MRP during preceding 12 months.

With an objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to the citizens, especially the poor and the deprived ones, *Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana* (PMBJP) was launched by the Government. Under the Scheme, dedicated outlets known as *Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras* (PMBJKs) are opened to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices. The price of Jan Aushadhi Medicines under the scheme are cheaper at least by 50% and in some cases cheaper by 80% to 90% of the market price of branded medicines.

(c) and (d): About 9182 PMBJKs have been opened across the country till 28.02.2023. State/UT- wise list of PMBJKs is enclosed as **Annexure**. The product basket of medicines presently consists of 1759 drugs and generally all essential medicines are available at the Kendras. The availability of medicines is ensured by Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), the Implementing Agency of the Scheme through implementation of an Information Technology (IT) enabled End-to-End supply chain system and SAP based inventory management system and a strong network of four warehouses and 36 distributors all corners of the nation.

(e) The details of the funds spent on promotion of PMBJP during last five financial years are as under:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Funds spent on promotion of PMBJP (Rs. in Crore)
1.	2017-18	4.76
2.	2018-19	6.50
3.	2019-20	5.70
4.	2020-21	12.77
5.	2021-22	10.48

## Annexure

Statement referred to in part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 2791 for answer on 17.03.2023 raised by SHRI DULAL CHANDRA GOSWAM regarding Jan Aushadhi Kendras

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of PMBJK opened
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	9
2	Andhra Pradesh	146
3	Arunachal Pradesh	29
4	Assam	110
5	Bihar	359
6	Chandigarh	9
7	Chhattisgarh	200
8	Delhi	387
9	Goa	11
10	Gujarat	521
11	Haryana	232
12	Himachal Pradesh	60
13	Jammu And Kashmir	220
14	Jharkhand	84
15	Karnataka	1050
16	Kerala	977
17	Ladakh	2
18	Lakshwadeep*	0
19	Madhya Pradesh	272
20	Maharashtra	640
21	Manipur	35
22	Meghalaya	16
23	Mizoram	12
24	Nagaland	20
25	Odisha	399
26	Puducherry	20
27	Punjab	314
28	Rajasthan	149
29	Sikkim	4
30	Tamil Nadu	872
31	Telangana	179
32	The Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	35
33	Tripura	25
34	Uttar Pradesh	1324
35	Uttarakhand	223
36	West Bengal	237
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>9182</b>

\* Medicines are directly supplied to the administration of UT of Lakshwadeep

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