

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1993
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH NOVEMBER, 2019**

PROMOTION OF GENERIC MEDICINES

1993. SHRI M.V.V. SATYANARAYANA:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to open more Generic Medical stores in Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, Vizianagaram, Araku and various parts of Andhra Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating to promote usage of Generic Medicines instead of branded medicines by disseminating information through advertisements in TV and print media and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also considering to amend the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 on this issue and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is aware that most of the Private Hospitals/ Corporate Hospitals discourage the usage of generic medicines in order to encourage only branded medicines which is burdensome to the patients; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken/ proposed to be taken to promote generic medicines across the country?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) & (b): Under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), 5803 dedicated retail outlets or Janaushadhi Kendras selling affordable generic medicines are functional in the country as on 25.11.2019, out of which 185 kendras are in Andhra Pradesh. Out of these 185 kendras, 19 are functioning in Visakhapatnam district (including one each at Anakapalli and Araku, which are suburbs of Visakhapatnam district) and 4 in Vizianagram district. The complete details of the Kendras including their address, contact number, etc. are available on the website janaushadhi.gov.in. Further, ten applicants have applied for obtaining the drug license for opening the PMBJP kendra at various places in the State.

(b): Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, the implementing agency of PMBJP is carrying out awareness campaign about the salient features of PMBJP through various types of advertisements such as Print Media, Radio advertisement, TV advertisement, Cinema Advertisements and Outdoor publicity like Hoardings, Bus Queue Shelter branding, Bus branding, Auto Rickshaw wrapping. In addition to this, BPPI also educate the public about the usages of Jan Aushadhi generic medicines through social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube, etc. regularly.

(c): No such proposal has been approved by the Government.

(d) & (e): The Government has not received any such report.

Further, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has taken various regulatory measures to promote and ensure the quality of generic medicines. These include instructions to Licensing Authorities to grant/ renew licenses to manufacture for sale or for distribution of drugs in proper/generic names only, amendment in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 for making it mandatory to grant license for a drug formulation containing single active ingredient in proper name only, and inclusion of provision in the Rules, 1945 for submission of the result of bioequivalence study alongwith application for grant of manufacturing license in the case of certain drugs and also provision for joint inspection of manufacturing establishment by the Drugs Inspectors of Central Government and State Government.

Medical Council of India (MCI) has notified an amendment in Clause 1.5 of Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, which stipulates that “Every physician should prescribe drugs with generic names legibly and preferably in capital letters and he/she shall ensure that there is a rational prescription and use of drugs”.