

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3037  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2024

**Use of Generic Medicines**

**3037. Shri Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has promoted the use of generic medicines through the Jan Aushadhi Kendras under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) to provide affordable healthcare options to citizens;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the impact of these steps on healthcare affordability;
- (d) the number of beneficiaries under PM-JAY, State-wise along with the amount of out-of-pocket expenditure saved as a result of the scheme; and
- (e) whether the regulation of drug prices by the NPPA has helped in reducing the cost of critical medicines, particularly for chronic diseases and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

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(a) to (c): The Government launched Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) with an objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all. Under this scheme, dedicated outlets known as Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) are opened across the country to provide medicines at 50%-80% cheaper rates than branded medicines. A total of 14,320 JAKs have been opened across the country till 30.11.2024. Under PMBJP, 2047 types of medicines and 300 surgicals/devices have been brought under the product basket covering all major therapeutic groups such as Cardiovascular, Anti-cancers, Anti-diabetics, Anti-infectives, Anti-allergic, Gastro-intestinal medicines, Nutraceuticals, etc.

It is estimated that on a daily basis 10-12 lakhs consumers buy medicines from more than 14300 Jan Aushadhi Kendras spread across the country. In last 10 years, sales of medicines worth Rs. 6462.00 crore have been made through JAKs, which has led to estimated savings of Rs. 30,000 crore to the citizens as compared to the branded medicines.

(d): As informed by National Health Authority, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) is a flagship scheme of the Government which provides health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to approximately 55 crore beneficiaries corresponding to 12.37 crore families constituting economically vulnerable bottom 40% of India's population. As on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024, approximately 36 crore Ayushman Cards have been created under AB PM-JAY. Further, 8.39 crore hospital admissions worth over Rs. 1.16 lakh crore have been authorized under the scheme. The cost of treatment under PM-JAY benefits from the economies of scale and the concept of pre-defined bundled package rate. Accordingly, it is estimated that if these treatments would have been availed by the beneficiaries in the open

market, they would have spent at least 1.5-2 times more than the hospital admission costs under PM-JAY. Thus, there has been significant Out-of-Pocket-Expenditure (OOPE) saving for beneficiaries related to hospitalization costs. State-wise number of eligible beneficiary families under AB PM-JAY is enclosed as **Annexure**.

(e): National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) fixes the ceiling price of medicines included in Schedule-I to the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). The medicines under Schedule-I of DPCO 2013 are mentioned according to their therapeutic category. Critical medicines or medicines used for chronic diseases are not specifically mentioned in Schedule-I. All manufacturers of scheduled medicines have to sell their products within the ceiling price (plus applicable Goods and Service Tax) fixed by the NPPA. In case of non-scheduled formulations, a manufacturer is at liberty to fix the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of the drugs launched by it. However, as per the DPCO 2013, no manufacturer can increase MRP of non-scheduled drug by more than 10% during preceding 12 months.

As on 11.12.2024, Ceiling Prices of 926 scheduled formulations have been fixed by NPPA of which ceiling prices of 742 are fixed/ re-fixed under National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2022. The average price reduction due to re-fixation of prices under NLEM, 2022 is about 16.82%. Further, as on 11.12.2024, Retail Price of approx. 3,046 new drugs, as defined in DPCO 2013, have been fixed by NPPA for the applicant manufacturer. In addition, the NPPA has taken other measures to regulate the prices of drugs using special provisions under Para 19 of DPCO, 2013 which *inter alia* include the following:

- (i) In 2014, NPPA capped the MRP of 106 non-scheduled diabetic and cardiovascular drugs under Para 19 of DPCO 2013 which includes 22 diabetic and 84 cardiovascular drugs. This resulted in annual savings of Rs. 350 Crore approximately to the patients.
- (ii) Trade Margin of non-scheduled formulations of 42 select Anti-cancer medicines capped under “Trade Margin Rationalization”, wherein prices of above 500 brands of medicines were reduced by average around 50 percent. This resulted into annual saving of approximately Rs. 984 crore to the patients.
- (iii) As a patient centric measure, ceiling price of Orthopaedic Knee Implants were fixed in August 2017.
- (iv) Price of Oxygen Concentrators, Pulse Oximeter, Blood Pressure Monitoring Machine, Nebulizer, Digital Thermometer and Glucometer were capped under “Trade Margin Rationalization” approach in June 2021 and July 2021. This led to annual savings to the consumers of around Rs. 1000 crore.

The details of prices fixed by NPPA is available on the website of NPPA i.e. [www.nppaindia.nic.in](http://www.nppaindia.nic.in).

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of the LOK SABHA UNSTARRED Q. NO. 3037 for answer on 13.12.2024

<b>State/UT- wise number of eligible families under AB PM-JAY</b>	
<b>Name of State/UT</b>	<b>Number of Eligible Families</b>
Andaman And Nicobar Islands	23,785
Andhra Pradesh	61,47,562
Arunachal Pradesh	98,844
Assam	30,03,069
Bihar	1,21,10,525
Chandigarh	79,226
Chhattisgarh	41,44,847
DNH & DD	47,578
Delhi	6,54,041
Goa	41,098
Gujarat	49,85,484
Haryana	17,24,837
Himachal Pradesh	5,32,396
Jammu And Kashmir	6,70,010
Jharkhand	31,18,620
Karnataka	69,01,440
Kerala	23,97,610
Ladakh	12,120
Lakshadweep	1,628
Madhya Pradesh	93,27,963
Maharashtra	93,05,910
Manipur	3,07,908
Meghalaya	3,85,708
Mizoram	2,16,584
Odisha	67,80,308
Nagaland	2,59,468
Puducherry	1,14,968
Punjab	16,65,113
Rajasthan	66,37,371
Sikkim	44,228
Tamil Nadu	86,48,748
Telangana	29,02,621
Tripura	5,49,554
Uttar Pradesh	1,31,23,662
Uttarakhand	5,97,682
West Bengal	1,24,37,482

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