

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1504
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH MARCH, 2016**

FREE MEDICINES

**1504. SHRI ABHIJIT MUKHERJEE:
DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN:
SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce a national scheme for generic medicines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has received any representation from any corner in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure regular and uninterrupted availability of medicines to all the poor people in the country?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a) to (d): In order to make quality medicines available at affordable price, a country wide campaign for ensuring availability of generic medicines at affordable prices to all in the name of “Jan Aushadhi Campaign” was launched in year 2008 as a direct market intervention strategy. The Scheme was launched through Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) who receives applications for opening of Jan Aushadhi Stores from all States/ Union Territories. To ensure regular and uninterrupted availability of medicines to all the people through Jan Aushadhi Stores, a Central Ware house has been established and the requisite number of Carrying and Forwarding (C&F) agents have also been appointed. Besides, the supply chain is monitored regularly by BPPI. As on date, 253 Jan Aushadhi stores spread over in 21 States are operational in the country.

(e): Public Health being a State subject, the primary responsibility to ensure regular and uninterrupted availability of medicines to all the people accessing public health facilities lies with the State/UT governments. Under the National Health Mission, support is being given to States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare including support for provision of free generic drugs to those who access public health facilities based on the requirement posed by the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans. An incentive of upto 5% additional funding under the NHM is provided to those states that introduce free generic/essential drugs. The Government has developed and issued operational guidelines for Free Drugs Service Initiative to provide guidance to the States.