

(b) to (d) In order to provide relief to the common man in the area of healthcare, a countrywide campaign in the name of 'Jan Aushadhi Campaign' was initiated by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, in collaboration with the State Governments, by way of opening up of Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug Stores in the Government Hospitals by way of supply of medicines through the Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), to make available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all. Under this campaign, it is intended to open at least one Jan Aushadhi Store in every district of the country to begin with, followed by at least five stores in each district so as to have 3150 stores by the end of the Twelfth Plan, wherever the State Governments extend their support and cooperation in allotting the space in the Government Hospitals or at any other suitable locations and also identify the agencies amongst Hospitals/NGOs/Charitable/Cooperative/Government Bodies to manage such stores. So far, 147 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened (upto 31.01.2013) in the country, spread over the twelve States, namely, Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, including UT of Chandigarh. Efforts are on to open more stores in the country with the collaboration of State Governments. However, much depends upon the prevailing health policy or the health programme being followed by the respective State Governments, in order to determine the feasibility and the viability for opening/managing such stores and also the extent of support and cooperation the State Governments provide in allotting the space in more number of places including identification of the agency to manage such stores, besides ensuring the cooperation of the Government Doctors in prescribing generic medicines.

Implementation of Schemes for Bhopal Gas Victims

†508. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 75 per cent partnership of the Madhya Pradesh Government has been fixed for the Schemes being operated for the Bhopal Gas Victims;

(b) if so, whether the amount as per the above agreement is being provided to the Madhya Pradesh Government for rehabilitation Schemes being operated for the Bhopal Gas Victims; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) if not, by when the amount will be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Government of India had released its share of 75% of total outlay of Rs. 258 crore for the first Action Plan of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for medical, economic, social and environmental rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims, approved in 1990. The implementation of this Action Plan was completed in July, 1999.

In July, 2010, Government of India has further released its share of 75% of the total outlay of Rs. 272.75 crore as Additional Central Assistance for schemes for medical, economic, social rehabilitation and for providing safe drinking water under the New Plan of Action submitted by Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Broadband connections in Panchayats

†509. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a target to connect 60 per cent Gram Panchayats of the country through broadband internet and other communication services by December, 2013;

(b) if so, whether Gram Panchayats to be connected through broadband and all other communication services have been selected; and

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats that are connected through broadband and other communication services at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Government has approved a scheme to connect all the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) for providing broadband connectivity to the Panchayats.

3 pilots have been launched in three blocks of 3 different States, viz., Arain Block in Ajmer District (Rajasthan), Pansagar Block in North Tripura District (Tripura) and Paravada Block in Vishakhapatnam District (Andhra Pradesh) on 15.10.2012 and 100 Mbps bandwidth has been created at all 58 GPs in these blocks.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.