

**Jan Aushadhi Stores**

543. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had planned to open 3000 Jan Aushadhi Stores during the Twelfth Plan period but as per the Parliamentary Standing Committee report only 170 such outlets have been opened;

(b) the latest number of Jan Aushadhi outlets opened;

(c) the reasons for such a poor implementation and negligence regarding such an important decision which is useful for the citizens;

(d) whether Government still aims to fulfil the target; and

(e) if so, a month-wise time-frame for opening of such outlets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) As per the original plan, the objective was to open at least one Jan Aushadhi Store in each of the 630 districts of the country. Later, a new business plan was prepared in August, 2013 and the objective was revised to open 3000 JASs by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2012-17. However, due to constraints, only 182 Jan Aushadhi Stores across 16 States/UTs could be started out of which 111 Jan Aushadhi Stores are in operation as on 13.07.2015.

(c) The slow progress of Jan Aushadhi Scheme is due to the following reasons:-

- (i) Over dependence on support from State Governments.
- (ii) Poor Supply Chain Management.
- (iii) Non-prescription of Generic Medicines by the doctors.
- (iv) State Governments launching free supply of drugs.
- (v) Lack of awareness among the public.
- (vi) Inadequate and lack of required professionals in BPPI
- (vii) Limited number of medicines in the basket.

(d) and (e) The Government proposes to open as many Jan Aushadhi Stores as possible' in various parts of the country with the co-operation of State Governments, NGOs/Charitable Societies/institutions/Self-Help Groups experienced in welfare activities and un-employed Pharmacists/Doctors/Registered Medical Practitioners, etc. For this, Expression of Interests have been invited through open advertisement from time to time from interested parties for opening of Jan

Aushadhi Stores. However, all out efforts are made to open at least 200 more Jan Aushadhi Stores during this financial year. To meet this objective, Expression of Interest (EOI) for opening of JASs was invited on 12.06.2015 through open advertisement. In addition to above, steps are also being taken to open Jan Aushadhi Stores in all AIIMS, Prominent Hospitals, Medical Colleges under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

**Profit margin on sale of medicines and medical equipments**

544. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some pharma companies are making huge profits on medicines and medical equipments;
- (b) if so, the details of the actual production cost and the MRP that is printed;
- (c) whether Government intends to stop such malpractices;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to provide medicines at affordable rates to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (d) As per the provisions of Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO, 2013) the Government/NPPA fixes the ceiling prices of essential medicines contained in Schedule-I. While fixing the ceiling price 16% margin is allowed to the retailers. For non-scheduled formulations there is no control over the launch price. In respect of medicines not under price control, manufacturers are allowed to increase maximum retail price (MHP) by 10% annually. Under DPCO, 2013, price fixation of drugs is on the principle of 'Market Based Pricing'. The actual production cost of medicines and medical equipment is not examined under DPCO, 2013.

(e) Pursuant to National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012, Government notified the DPCG, 2013 on 15th May 2013. All the medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines 2011 have been included in the first schedule of DPCG, 2013 and brought under price control. Out of the 680 (628 net medicines), ceiling prices of 530 essential medicines have been notified by the Government/NPPA. The details of reduction in prices of scheduled formulations effected under DPCG, 2013 as compared to the highest price prevailing prior to the announcement of DPCG, 2013 are as follows: