

subvention scheme has been extended to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six months post harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan against negotiable warehouse receipt for keeping their produce in warehouses.

- The limit of collateral free farm loan has been increased from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 100,000.
- In order to ensure that all eligible farmers are provided with hassle-free and timely credit for their agricultural operations, the Government has introduced the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme, which enables them to purchase agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. and draw cash to satisfy their consumption needs. The KCC Scheme has since been simplified and converted into ATM-enabled debit card with, *interalia*, facilities of one-time documentation, built-in cost escalation in the limit, any number of draws within the limit, etc.
- Joint Liability Group (JLG) is an informal group comprising 4 to 10 individuals coming together for the purpose of availing bank loan on individual basis or through group mechanism against mutual guarantee. The JLG mode of financing serves as collateral substitute for loans to be provided to the target group *i.e.* small, marginal, tenant farmers, oral lessees, share croppers, etc. As on 31.03.2016, the total number of 17.20 lakh JLGs have been financed with ₹ 16,856 crore (cumulative).

(d) Does not arise.

Opening of Jan Aushadhi Stores in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

2282. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not even a single Jan Aushadhi Store (JAS) is functioning in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry;

(b) if so, the reasons for not opening even a single store in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry;

(c) whether it is not a fact that the original plan was to open at least one JAS in each district of the country;

(d) if so, the reasons for not following the plan; and

(e) by when Government would open JAS in each of the Government hospitals in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAMAHIR): (a) and (b) Jan Aushadhi Yojana

envisages Jan Aushadhi Stores in the Government run hospitals and also run by Private Entrepreneurs, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), pharmacists etc. Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India (BPPI) has not received any proposal from Government of Tamil Nadu for opening Jan Aushadhi Stores in Government hospitals which may be because of free supply of generic drugs in all Government hospitals. However, 15 applications for opening of Jan Aushadhi Stores in Tamil Nadu have been received from Private Entrepreneurs and NGO Hospitals. Two Jan Aushadhi Stores at Virudhu Nagar and Madurai will be opened shortly.

(c) and (d) It has been envisaged in Jan Aushadhi Yojana to open at least one Jan Aushadhi Store in each district of the country. This has not been attained due to (i) Overs dependence on support from State Government for setting up of Jan Aushadhi Store in the premises of Government hospital; (ii) Free supply of medicines in few States affected viability of opening Jan Aushadhi Stores in Government hospitals; (iii) Non-prescription of Generic medicines by the doctors; and (iv) Lack of responses from organization like AIIMS, prominent hospitals, medical colleges etc.

(e) The Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI), the implementing agency of Jan Aushadhi Yojana is constantly in touch with the States Governments to initiate action on opening of Jan Aushadhi Stores in the State run hospitals.

Disposal of toxic waste in Union Carbide factory, Bhopal

2283. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several tonnes of toxic waste, lying dumped in Union Carbide factory, Bhopal has not been disposed of even after three decades of the worst industrial disaster;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government for safe disposal of the toxic waste without any further loss of time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAMAHIR): (a) and (b) There is approximately 337 MT of Union Carbide India Ltd. (UCIL) waste within the premises of the erstwhile UCIL plant site at Bhopal. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India seized of the issue of disposal of UCIL waste and remediation of plant site in the matter of Special Leave Petition (Civil) No. 9874 of 2012: Union of India *Vs*: Alok Pratap Singh and others. The Government of India in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is taking actions pursuant to the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court from time to time. As per Hon'ble Supreme Court's