

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) vide Notification No. S.O. 412(E) dated 13.02.2017 has fixed the ceiling prices of coronary stents under two categories *i.e.* Bare Metal Stent at INR 7260 per unit and Drug Eluting Stents (DES) including metallic DES and Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (BVS)/Biodegradable Stents at INR 29600 per unit bringing down the prices by 70% to 80% on average. The reduction of prices is on the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) on which the Stents were being provided by the hospitals to patients.

(c) and (d) Companies and Importers have assured to maintain the supply of stents in the market on the prices fixed by the Government. NPPA has advised all State Governments and State Drug Controllers to invoke provisions of the Drug Price Control Order, 2013 which include directions to maintain supply of coronary stents.

Opening of Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Karnataka

1162. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government aims to open 3,000 Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMJAKs) in the country by March, 2017;

(b) if so, details of the proposal with a particular reference to Karnataka;

(c) the number of PMJAKs proposed to be opened in Karnataka out of the targeted Kendras and the present status of the same; and

(d) whether there are any plans to open PMJAKs in general areas other than in Government hospitals, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) which is mandated with implementing Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) have invited applications from individuals and entered into MoUs with various State Governments and NGOs. It has also signed an MoU with Health Department, Government of Karnataka for opening of 200 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra's (PMJAK) in the State.

(c) There is no specific target for Karnataka but the Government of Karnataka has signed an MoU for starting 200 Kendras with the BPPI. So far, 17 kendras are functional, 8 in the Government Hospitals and 9 in the private premises.

(d) Yes, Sir. Pursuant to advertisement released in December, 2016, inviting applications for opening Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushahi Kendras (PMJAKs), approximately 500 applications have been received from across the State of Karnataka from private applicants.

Proceeds from sale of BCPL and HAL

1163. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved the sale of India's first pharma company, Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL) as well as Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL) after selling of their surplus land to meet their outstanding liabilities;

(b) whether Government has also approved the closure of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) and Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (RDPL); and

(c) the amount expected from the sale proceeds of these companies, the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) The Government has decided for strategic sale of Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd (BCPL) and Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL) after meeting their liabilities, cleansing their balance sheets and effecting Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS)/Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No such estimate has been made so far. However, it has been decided to sell only that much of surplus land of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL), Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL), Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (RDPL) and Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL) as would be required to meet their liabilities.

Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Punjab

1164. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras opened in Punjab during the last three years and the current year;