

PSUs in Pharma sector

2597. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings in the pharmaceutical sector along with those that have been disinvested;

(b) whether Government proposes to increase participation in the pharmaceutical industry to manufacture low cost drugs to improve accessibility of medicines for the lower sections of the society; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) There are five Public Sector Undertakings functioning under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals, namely, Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (KAPL), Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL), Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL), Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (RDPL) and Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL). All these PSUs except KAPL, are sick/loss making. The Government has decided for closure of IDPL and RDPL and strategic sale of BCPL and HAL.

(b) and (c) The domestic Pharma Industry is well developed and has achieved a leadership position and global presence as a world class cost effective generic drugs manufacturer. The Government does not intend to increase its presence in manufacture of drugs. Government is ensuring access of quality, cost effective generic medicines to lower sections of the society through Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

Setting up of Jan Aushadhi Kendras

†2598. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the country under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana has increased by seven times in the last two and a half years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up Jan Aushadhi Kendras at the level of each block and Gram Panchayat of the country; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.