

Impact of PMBJP

2600. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana since its inception; and

(b) whether there have been any modifications in the scheme since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana' (PMBJP) was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India with an objective of making available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all.

Under this scheme, unbranded generic medicines of good quality are made available through outlets called PMBJP Kendras. In order to ensure quality of medicines sold through PMBJP Kendras, the medicines are procured only from WHO-GMP certified manufacturers.

As on 31.12.2018, 4677 PMBJP Kendras are functional in 35 States/UTs of the country. The product basket of the scheme covers more than 800 medicines and 154 surgicals and consumables covering all 23 major therapeutic groups such as Anti-infectives, Anti-diabetics, Cardiovasculars, Anti-cancers, Gastro-intestinal medicines, etc.

The Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of a medicine sold through PMBJP outlets is fixed in such a way that it is at least 50% below the average MRP of corresponding top three brands of that medicine. In some cases, the MRP is fixed at such a low rate that it is 90% below the MRP of corresponding branded medicines. Thus, quality generic medicines are made available to people of the country at a much cheaper rate *vis-a-vis* the prevalent market rate of branded medicines. Unbranded generic medicines worth ₹ 417 crores (MRP) have been sold through PMBJP Kendras from inception of the scheme till the end of December, 2018. This sale is roughly equivalent to sale of ₹ 2085 crores of the branded medicines. Thus, PMBJP has resulted in the saving of approximately ₹ 1668 crores to the citizens of country.

(b) Yes Sir.

Problems of Pharmaceutical industry

2601. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pharmaceutical industry is facing problems like

procurement issue, unpredictability in drug pricing, difference in stand taken by NPPA and Department of Pharmaceutical, etc.; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with details thereof?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Pharma Industry has brought to the notice of the Government that due to closure of the manufacturing plants in China on issue of increasing pollution and environment concerns, the industry is facing inconsistent hike in the price of Raw Material [Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) and Intermediates] imported from China for manufacture of formulations in India to meet the demand of domestic market and also affecting the availability of Raw Material (API and Intermediate). The Government is closely monitoring the situation.

Further, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes the ceiling/retail prices of drugs under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) and any person aggrieved by any notification issued or order made under paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of this Order, may apply to the Government for a review of the notification or Order within a period of thirty days of the date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette or the receipt of the order by him. The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) examines the review applications filed by the companies and directs NPPA to remove any discrepancy, if found in price fixation as per DPCO, 2013. NPPA implements the Review order given by Department of Pharmaceuticals.

Overhauling drug pricing policy and dismantling NPPA

2602. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to overhaul the drug pricing policy and ease regulatory framework to facilitate smooth business environment for pharmaceutical companies;

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof;

(c) whether Government has decided to dismantle the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government has established any other agency for issuing licences and approval of new drugs and if so, the details thereof?