

compliance as per the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO, 2013) under intimation to NPPA. NPPA has also written to Pharma Associations in the matter. NPPA is monitoring the situation regularly to ensure that ceiling prices of essential medicines are not breached.

Further, Department of Pharmaceuticals has constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Eshwara Reddy, Joint Drugs Controller, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) to address the issue of drug security in the country in the context of novel coronavirus outbreak in China. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the department has issued necessary instructions to National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to ensure adequate supply of APIs and formulations at affordable prices in the market and to prevent black-marketing, illegal hoarding, creating artificial shortages in the country. In this regard, Department of Pharmaceuticals has written to DGFT to restrict exports of 13 API and formulations made using these APIs.

Quality of medicines sold through Jan Aushadhi stores

2278. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Jan Aushadhi outlets functioning in the country;
- (b) the number of generic medicines sold through these outlets;
- (c) whether there is any complaint from any quarters on the quality of the medicines sold; and
- (d) if so, details of action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) As on 09.03.2020, 6222 Janaushadhi outlets are functional in the country.

(b) Product basket of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) comprises more than 900 drugs and 154 surgicals.

(c) In the financial year 2019-20, Total 7975 batches of medicines have been procured till 06.03.2020. Out of these, 36 samples are failed by different State Drug Authorities for various reasons.

(d) Janaushadhi medicines under PMBJP are procured only from WHO-GMP certified manufacturers and Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) of India. It ensures that pharmaceutical products are consistently produced under controlled conditions to achieve good quality standards. Further, the medicines thus procured are tested at National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited laboratories for quality assurance and only after passing through the stipulated standards of quality parameters, they are released for sale.

On receipt of a complaint, wherein a product is declared as "Not of Standard Quality" by respective authorities, Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI), the implementing agency of PMBJP takes strong action such as stopping sale and distribution of batches identified as "Not of Standard Quality" and recalling stock of such medicines. A show cause notice is also issued to the concerned drug supplier. If a satisfactory reply is not received from the supplier against the show cause notice within the stipulated time, then action is taken as per relevant clauses of the tender, such as forfeiture of the security deposit, recovery of the cost of the entire batch, blacklisting/debarment of a firm, etc.

Drugs price monitoring cells

2279. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
DR. AMEE YAJNIK:
LT. GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.):
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up drugs price monitoring cells across the country and if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to strengthen regulatory mechanism of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and to ensure compliance of its orders on retail prices of medicines?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Price Monitoring and Resource Units (PMRU) are to be set up across the country under the scheme "Consumer Awareness, Publicity and Price Monitoring".