

Further, on the intervention of the NPPA and the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), manufacturers of Remdesivir have created a helpline to make available the Remdesivir. However, both these drugs are not part of COVID-19 protocol and continue as under investigational therapy drugs. The availability of key medicines is also monitored through regular survey conducted by the officials of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) on chemist shops at various localities across the country.

In the wake of COVID-19 crisis, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) has been rendering essential services to the nation. The stores remained functional during the lock-down period and maintained operations as part of their commitment to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential medicines. It was ensured to make available adequate stock of generic medicines at PMBJP stores.

(b) No, Sir.

Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs)

699. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) opened so far in various States of the country;

(b) the details regarding worth of generic medicines sold through these kendras during the last three years, especially in the country;

(c) the details regarding cost-saving to patients in respect of generic drugs purchased from Janaushadhi Kendras as compared to equivalent non-generic medicines available in the market; and

(d) the details of safeguards being observed to maintain quality standards in respect of generic drugs?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) Under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), about 6,605 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) are functional across the country in 36 States/UTs as on 14.09.2020. The State/UT-wise list is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) The details of sales made by the PMBJKs during the last three Financial Years are as under:—

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Sales at MRP (₹ in crore)
1.	2017-18	140.84
2.	2018-19	315.70
3.	2019-20	433.60

(c) The cost of Jan Aushadhi Medicines is cheaper by at least 50% and in some cases, by 80% to 90% of the market price of the branded medicines. The scheme has drastically brought down the prices of quality medicines and has made the medicines available within the reach of a large section of the population, especially the poor.

(d) In order to maintain quality standards, the medicines sold through PMBJKs are purchased only from the World Health Organization - Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP) certified suppliers. Apart from this, each batch of the drug is tested at laboratories accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). Only after passing the quality tests, the medicines are dispatched to PMBJKs. Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI), the implementing agency of the scheme also does a routine quality audit of the facilities of the vendors.

Statement

State/UT-wise list of PMBJKs across the country

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of PMBJKs
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2
2.	Andhra Pradesh	193
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	30
4.	Assam	91
5.	Bihar	179
6.	Chandigarh	6
7.	Chhattisgarh	221
8.	Delhi	166

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of PMBJKs
9.	Goa	9
10.	Gujarat	542
11.	Haryana	186
12.	Himachal Pradesh	67
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	91
14.	Jharkhand	68
15.	Karnataka	703
16.	Kerala	574
17.	Ladakh	3
18.	Lakshadweep*	0
19.	Madhya Pradesh	183
20.	Maharashtra	477
21.	Manipur	35
22.	Meghalaya	9
23.	Mizoram	24
24.	Nagaland	16
25.	Odisha	215
26.	Puducherry	16
27.	Punjab	217
28.	Rajasthan	138
29.	Sikkim	3
30.	Tamil Nadu	656
31.	Telangana	132
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	27

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of PMBJKs
33.	Tripura	25
34.	Uttar Pradesh	967
35.	Uttarakhand	196
36.	West Bengal	138
TOTAL		6605

* Medicines are directly supplied to UT administration of Lakshadweep.

Shortage of urea

700. DR. ANIL AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of urea in various States in the country at present;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is also aware that the farmers are purchasing urea at higher rate from the open market; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to supply urea to the farmers on control rate through Government Agencies?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Sir, There is no such report received in the Department by any State Government. Government of India has notified fertilizer as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955(ECA) and notified Fertilizer (Control) Order (FCO), 1985 and Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order, 1973 under the EC Act. State Governments have been adequately empowered to ensure selling of fertilizers at MRP besides stopping black marketing of fertilizers. State Governments are also empowered to conduct search, make seizures and take punitive action against any person violating provisions of FCO, 1985 and Essential Commodities Act, 1955.