

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6600
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2010
SETTING UP OF PHARMACIES
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to focus on healthcare and access to cheap drugs by setting up the chain of pharmacies through the Centre-State partnership;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent to which it is likely to be helpful for the people to have cheaper drugs?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) to (b) Government has proposed to encourage the opening & operation of Jan Aushadhi Stores (JAS) by respective State Governments through NGO's /Charitable Organizations/ Cooperative bodies/ Red Cross etc. to promote and make available quality unbranded generic medicines at affordable prices. Under this Scheme, the State Government has to provide space in Government Hospital premises for the running of the outlets (JAS). Government hospitals, NGOs, Charitable Organisations and public societies like Red Cross Society, Rogi Kalyan Samiti typically constituted for the purpose can be operating agencies for the JAS. The operating agency for IAS is nominated on the basis of the recommendations of the State government. Operational expenditure is met from trade margins admissible for the medicines. The State Govt has to ensure prescription of unbranded generic medicines by the Government doctors. At present a total of 44 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened in the States of Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, U.T. of Chandigarh and Delhi.

(c) As there is a considerable difference between the prices of Unbranded Generic medicines and branded medicines the Jan Aushadhi Campaign will improve access to healthcare in as much as cost of medicines required for medical treatment would come down substantially.