

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1123
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2012
ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL MEDICINES
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the world medicine report of WHO highlighted the plight of 600 million rural and urban Indian poor without adequate access to essential medicines;
- (b) if so, whether the Prime Minister has appointed a task force headed by Mr. Pronob Sen to address this problem;
- (c) if so, the details of recommendations given by the said task force;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to address the drug policy in the country;
- (e) the performance of Jan Aushadhi Campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals;
- (f) whether the Government is having any data about the number of poor people benefited by this scheme; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

- (a) to (c): Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.
- (d): The drug policy as amended from time to time also envisages making quality medicines at a reasonable price to the masses.
- (e): The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, had launched 'Jan Aushadhi Campaign' in November, 2008, under which Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug Stores are being opened in the Government Hospitals to make available (unbranded) quality Generic medicines at much affordable prices to all by way of supply of medicines through Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). Under this campaign, at least one Jan Aushadhi Store in each district is intended to be opened, wherever the State Governments extend their support and cooperation in allotting the space in the Government Hospitals or at any other suitable locations and also identify the agencies amongst Hospitals/NGOs/Charitable/Cooperative/Government Bodies to manage such stores. As regards performance of the Jan Aushadhi Campaign, the first Jan Aushadhi Store was opened under the Jan Aushadhi Campaign in the Civil Hospital, Amritsar in November, 2008 and till 31st October, 2012, 145 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened, spread over in twelve States, namely, Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttrakhand, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, including UT of Chandigarh, 319 generic medicines, covering several therapeutic groups, are listed for sale through the Jan Aushadhi Stores. In terms of value, Rs. 9,02,74,091/- worth of medicines have been sold through these stores till October, 2012. .
- (f): No such data is maintained in the Department,
- (g): In view of reply (f) above, does not arise.