

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS**

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1135
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25 JULY, 2025

Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Karnataka

1135. Shri Jagadish Shettar:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the guidelines issued by the Government of Karnataka prohibiting opening of any new Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) on the premises of the Government Hospitals in the State, if so, the details thereof and remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of the pathetic condition of JAKs in the State which is causing trouble and distress to poor people, if so, the remedial steps being taken in this regard and to ensure adequate supply of Genuine medicines thereof JAKs to such poor people?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) and (b): Taking note of reports regarding a decision taken by the State Government of Karnataka to close Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) in Government hospitals in the State, the Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers addressed a letter to the Chief Minister of Karnataka, highlighting that JAKs provide quality generic medicines at rates typically 50% to 80% cheaper than leading branded medicines in the market, which has resulted in estimated savings of about ₹5,700 crore to citizens in the State over the last 10 years. It further highlighted that every State Government has chosen to avail of Janaushadhi medicines through JAKs set up in Government health facilities, as a result of which about 1,500 JAKs are today operating from Government health facilities across the country, offering patients great convenience and an outlet for procuring in case of any shortage of medicines in the health facility pharmacy. Against this background, the letter sought reconsideration of the decision in the interest of better securing the availability of quality medicines to all.

To ensure sufficient availability of medicines at all JAKs in the State, the Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Bureau of India maintains and supplies medicines procured by it from two regional warehouses at Bengaluru and Chennai. In addition, a strong network of 10 distributors has been set up across the southern region of the country to meet the requirement of JAKs at the local level and ensure that Janaushadhi medicines are available on an ongoing basis at various JAKs to meet the requirements of citizens. As a result, more than ₹995 crore MRP worth of quality Janaushadhi medicines at affordable prices have been provided from 1,480 JAKs opened in the State.
