

Parliamentary standing committee to hold consultation on medicine distribution scheme

11 November 2013 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau

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In order to provide relief to the common man in the area of healthcare, a countrywide campaign for ensuring availability of generic medicines at affordable prices to all, in the name of "Jan Aushadi Campaign" was launched by the ministry of chemicals and fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals), government of India in November, 2008, in collaboration with the state governments, as a direct market intervention strategy.

The medicines for the campaign are supplied by the Central Pharma PSU (CPSUs) under the department of pharmaceuticals. Under this campaign, it was proposed to open, initially, at least one store in each district of the country. As against the target of opening one JAS in each of the 630 districts, only 157 stores have been opened till September 30, 2013 in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and UT of Chandigarh. The details of the scheme may be assessed from the website www.janaushadhi.gov.in.

Now, the department related standing committee on chemicals and fertilizers under the chairmanship of Mr Gopinath Munde, MP have taken up the Subject "Jan Aushadhi Scheme" for examination and report.

With a view to have wider consultations and a holistic view on the subject, the Committee have decided to invite memoranda containing views and suggestions of experts, individuals, institutions, organizations and other stakeholders interested with the subject matter on the issues such as creation of awareness in public at large about the Jan Aushadhi Scheme and generic medicines; methodology involved including the prices of medicines; access to quality medicines at affordable prices for all; prescription of the generic medicines by the government and private doctors; availability of all the essential and listed

medicines at Jan Aushadhi Stores; major bottlenecks faced by stockists, Jan Aushadhi Stores, NGOs, hospitals, Charitable/ Cooperative/ Government Bodies including Red Cross Societies and the State Governments affecting the smooth implementation of the scheme, etc.

The Committee would, thereafter, also take oral evidence on the subject. Those who wish to appear before the Committee, besides submitting memorandum, are requested to specifically indicate so. However, the Committee's decision in this regards shall be final.

The memorandum submitted to the Committee would form part of the records of the Committee and would be treated as strictly 'Confidential' and not circulated to any one, as such an act would constitute a breach of privilege of the Committee.