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Cuban lawmakers discuss production and distribution of medicines

BioCubaFarma presented a report to one of the commissions of the Cuban Parliament on its management and the deficiencies that still exist in the production of medicines in charge of that business group.

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BioCubaFarma presented a report to one of the commissions of the Cuban Parliament on its management and the deficiencies that still exist in the production of medicines in charge of that business group.

In the commission of Education, Culture, Science, Technology and Environment, the president of BioCubaFarma, pointed out that to reverse the situation, measures were adopted that have allowed them to increase the number of products it produces in November and December.

The shortages of drugs, a situation that had been dragging on since 2016, was caused by the financial limitations faced by the country, mainly due to the effects caused by the economic, commercial and financial blockade that the United States has maintained against Cuba for more than 50 years.

The President of BioCubaFarma predicted that in 2018 they will eradicate shortages, as the number of missing items began to decrease in November, from the arrival of raw materials and other inputs that ensure the continuity of production.

The Cuban government has allocated additional funding to increase the coverage of control card medications, indicated for chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, among others.

He explained that of the 801 drugs in the basic table of medicines, 505 are produced by the national industry and

296 imported, as well as 144 natural products available in the National Health System.

BioCubaFarma, which gathers 32 companies, produces 62 percent of the total basic table, the executive said, and told the Cuban News Agency that the entity has 374 research projects, a good part of them protected by patents.

When referring to the measures to tackle illegalities, corruption and social indiscipline, the official said that the plan includes working on strengthening the internal control system and identifying the risks.

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