

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 02.03.2010
ANSWERED ON
FREE MEDICINES FOR BPL PATIENTS UNDER NRHM .

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SHRI N.K. SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Central Government is aware that State Governments are not providing medicines to even Below Poverty Line (BPL) patients under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is need to strengthen the public health service system under NRHM; and
- (d) if so, whether the Central Government would also ensure that the BPL patients are getting medicines free of cost under NRHM?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b). The NRHM supplements the efforts of the States in provision of medicines. Besides non-availability of drugs due to supply and logistic issues, the practice of prescribing branded drugs leads to out of pocket expenditure on drugs. NRHM promotes essential generic drug lists in states.

(c) & (d) The NRHM is a decentralised initiative for comprehensive rejuvenation of the health delivery system in partnership with the states. The states propose the activities as per local needs in the Annual Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) which is appraised and approved by the National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC) under NRHM. As such a wide range of activities are taken up in various states and overall progress is to address the key gaps in the system. They have been empowered to take up a wide range of activities including free of cost of medicines under NRHM for ensuring availability of quality services to the population in all parts of the country.