

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1396
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH MARCH, 2017**

DEATH DUE TO POVERTY

1396. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) whether according to the World Health Organisation poverty is a major cause of diseases;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and
- (c) whether the World Health Organisation has given any suggestions to prevent deaths occurring due to poverty and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)**

(a); According to World Health Organization, poverty is considered an important social determinant of health and an important contributor to ill-health in many contexts. Poverty and ill health are often closely linked.

(b): Various Ministries of Government of India in participation with state governments are implementing large number of schemes and programmes for poverty alleviations. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing National Health Mission to address the health needs of the people, particularly the poor and under privileged people of the country by promoting access to quality health services, reducing out of pocket expenses through free drugs and diagnostics initiatives, controlling /eliminating vaccine preventable diseases etc. Further, under Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), upto Rs. 30000 is given for treatment /hospitalization to benefitting BPL and 11 categories of workers in rural and urban areas.

(c): WHO recommends to move towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and to develop mechanisms for financial protection from health related expenditures and access to quality health services, at affordable cost.

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