

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2191
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01ST JANUARY, 2019**

MEDICINES IN THE REMOTE VILLAGES

2191. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

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

(a) whether Government has any roadmap so as to make medicines available in the remote villages of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) & (b): “Public Health & Hospitals” being a state subject, the primary responsibility to make medicines available in the remote villages is that of respective State Government. Under the National Health Mission (NHM), the central government has initiated NHM Free Drugs Service Initiative which supplements the efforts of State/ UT governments for provision of free essential medicines in public health facilities including health facilities in remote villages.

As on date, all States/ UTs have notified policy to provide free essential drugs in public health facilities.

Under the NHM, financial and technical support is provided to the States/UTs not only for provision of essential drugs free of cost in public health facilities but also for strengthening/setting up robust systems of procurement, quality assurance mechanism, warehousing, prescription audit, grievance redressal, dissemination of Standard Treatment Guidelines, and IT backed supply chain management systems like Drugs and Vaccines Distribution Management Systems (DVDMS).