

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1386
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH MARCH, 2025**

SHORTAGE OF DEFEROXAMINE IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

1386. SMT. SAGARIKA GHOSE:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that there is a shortage of deferoxamine in medical institutions such as AIIMS Delhi and Safdarjung hospital;
- (b) whether Government is aware that the shortage of this drug in Government hospitals is causing inconvenience to those suffering from thalassemia;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that this drug is made readily available as soon as possible; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to ensure well being of patients suffering from thalassemia and sickle cell anemia?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (c): No shortage of medicines used in treatment of thalassemia has been reported in AIIMS, New Delhi, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital. The availability of medicines is regularly monitored by the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) mainly through Drugs Control Administration of State Governments, Price Monitoring Resource Units etc. In case of any shortage, NPPA takes remedial steps for ensuring availability of drugs by impressing upon concerned companies to rush the stocks to the places of shortage.

(d) To eliminate sickle cell disease, National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission has been launched in July 2023. A National Sickle cell portal has been launched to monitor the progress of screening and test results of sickle cell disease in all States. Under National Health Mission, the Central Government provides funds to States for procurement of drugs in primary and secondary level health facilities. Further, Thalassemia drugs are included in National Essential Drugs List as per norms of Free Drugs Service Initiative. AIIMS, New Delhi has separate clinic for thalassemia and the facility of blood transfusion is provided to patients on regular basis.
