

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3650
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th MARCH, 2026**

NON-AVAILABILITY OF MEDICINES IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

3650 # SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that essential medicines remain unavailable for months in District Hospitals and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in several States, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that, despite the allocation of thousands of crores of rupees every year for the supply of medicines, shortages of medicines continue to persist in hospitals;
- (c) the successful efforts being made by Government to ensure the availability of essential medicines in all Government hospitals in the country; and
- (d) the plan formulated by Government to make the Free Drugs Service Initiative effective in Government hospitals across the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Health is a State subject & under the National Health Mission (NHM), financial support is provided to the States/UTs for strengthening their healthcare delivery system including support for provision of free essential medicines in public health facilities based on the requirements posed by States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) within their overall resource envelope.

Under Free Drugs Service Initiative (FDSI), Government of India supports procurement of drugs and strengthening robust systems of procurement, Quality Assurance, Supply chain management and warehousing, Prescription audit, grievance redressal, dissemination of Standard Treatment Guidelines and Establishment of IT enabled platform DVDMS (Drugs & Vaccine Distribution Management System) for monitoring the real status of procurement and availability of essential medicines.

Ministry of Health and Welfare (MoHFW) has recommended facility wise Essential Medicines List (EML) to be made available at the public healthcare facilities which includes provision of a variety of free services related to maternal health, child health, adolescent health, family planning, universal immunisation programme, and for major diseases. The facility wise number of medicines in the EML includes 106 drugs at Sub Health Centre level, 172 at Primary Health Centre level, 300 at Community Health Centre level, 318 at Sub-district Hospital level and 381 drugs at district Hospital level. However, States have the flexibility to add more medicines.

Quality of drugs procured, under FDSI, is ensured through the operational guidelines of the initiative that

- All drugs must be sourced from Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) compliant manufacturers through robust procurement mechanism.
- Post supply testing of every batch before distributing to the health facilities.
