

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2017
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th DECEMBER, 2017**

FREE MEDICINES FOR POOR

2017. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of centres for free of cost medicine distribution to the economically weaker sections in the country including Bihar; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

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

(a) & (b): “Public Health and Hospitals” being a State subject, the primary responsibility of increasing the number of centres for free of cost medicine distribution to all including economically weaker sections in the country including Bihar is that of respective State Government. However, under National Health Mission (NHM), support is being provided to States/ UTs for strengthening of their healthcare delivery system including support for NHM Free Drugs Service Initiative for provision of essential drugs free of cost to those who access public health facilities. Such support is based on the proposals received from respective States/ UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs).

All the States/UTs have reported that they have notified free drug policy in their respective States/UTs.