

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3764
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2023**

“FREE MEDICINES IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS”

†**3764. SHRI DINESH LAL YADAV“NIRAHUA”:**

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

- (a) whether the Government provides free of cost medicines in Government hospitals to the patients living below the poverty line;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has received complaints regarding irregularities in the quality of medicines provided to such patients and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) & (b): Under NHM financial support is provided to States / UTs 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. Ministry has recommended facility wise Essential Drugs List (EDL) to be made available at the public healthcare facilities to ensure widespread access to essential medicines. No of medicines recommended at various facilities as follows: 377 medicines at District Hospital level, 314 at Sub-District Hospital, 300 at Community Health Centre, 171 at Primary Health Centre and 105 medicines at Sub-centre level. However, States have the flexibility to add more. To ensure availability of essential medicines at various Health centres, a web based supply chain management system i.e. Drugs & Vaccine Distribution Management System is used which has all the information related to inventory.

(c): National Health Mission (NHM) envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to people’s needs. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs to strengthen the public healthcare system, based on the proposals received in the form of Programme Implementation

Plans (PIPs) under National Health Mission. Government of India provides approval for the proposals in the form of Record of Proceedings (RoPs) as per norms & available resources. Procurement is done by state as per procurement manual. As per operational guidelines for Free Drugs Service Initiative, the following mechanism is recommended to States/UTs for quality control of drugs:

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