

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1076

TO BE ANSWERED ON 03RD DECEMBER, 2021

MEDICAL FACILITIES TO POOR IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

1076: SHRI AJAY NISHAD:

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

- (a) whether the Government provides free treatment and medicines in Government hospitals to patients living Below Poverty Line;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received complaints regarding irregularities in quality of medicines provided to such poor patients; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the necessary steps 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) to (d): "Public Health and Hospitals" being a state subject, the primary responsibility of strengthening public healthcare system including provision of essential medicines lies with the respective State Governments. However as far as Central Government Hospitals including All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMSs) are concerned, these hospitals provide free treatment and medicines to patients living Below Poverty Line.

Under National Health Mission (NHM), technical and financial support is provided to the States/Union Territories to strengthen the public healthcare system including support for ensuring sufficient supply of free medicines and other medical equipment at public healthcare facilities towards the objective of providing accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to all those who access public health facilities.

To ensure availability of essential drugs and diagnostics and reduce the Out of Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) of the patients visiting the public health facilities, Government has rolled out the Free Drugs Services Initiative (FDSI) and Free Diagnostics Service Initiative under National Health Mission. Under this, financial support is provided to States/Union Territories for provision of medical equipment and free essential medicines in public health facilities based on the requirements posted by them in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) within their overall resource envelope. This support includes strengthening/setting up robust systems of procurement, quality assurance mechanism, warehousing, prescription audit, grievance redressal dissemination of Standard Treatment Guidelines, and Information Technology (IT) backed supply chain management systems like Drugs and Vaccines Distribution Management Systems (DVDMS).

Ministry has recommended facility wise Essential Medicines List (EML) according to which medicines are to be made available at the public healthcare facilities:

- (i) Sub Health Centre health & Wellness Centre (SHC-HWCs)- 105
- (ii) Primary Health Centre Health & Wellness Centre (PHC-HWCs)-172
- (iii) Community Health Centres (CHCs)-455
- (iv) District Hospital (DHs)- 544

Moreover, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides financial assistance for treatment of poor patients suffering from identified life threatening diseases and taking treatment in Government hospitals, under the Umbrella Scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) and Health Minister's Discretionary Grant.