

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 993
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2016**

ESSENTIAL MEDICINES

993. SHRI ALOK SANJAR:

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

- (a) the number of medicines listed as essential medicines and the efforts made by the Government to ensure their adequate availability to the common man of the country;
- (b) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has given any guidelines in this regard, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for compliance of the same;
- (c) whether the WHO had advised that the doctors in the country should prescribe only certain medicines from the list of essential medicines; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)**

(a): 376 medicines have been listed in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2015. With a view to ensuring availability of essential medicines at reasonable prices, the Government has formulated the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Policy (NPPP) and put in place a regulatory framework for pricing of drugs. Under this policy, the availability of essential medicines at reasonable prices is ensured while at the same time also providing sufficient opportunity for innovation and competition.

(b) to (d): WHO brings out a Model List of Essential Medicines from time to time which is not country specific. The Government of India also brings out its National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) from time to time keeping in view the disease pattern of the country, latest scientific evidence on the efficacy, safety and cost effectiveness of medicines and the standard treatment guidelines. NLEM 2015 was notified on 23.12.2015. The standard treatment guidelines under the Clinical Establishments Act, 2010 and different National Health Programmes provide guidance for prescribing medicines.