

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3564
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2002
SHORTAGE OF MEDICINES IN CGHS DISPENSARIES
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;RADHA MOHAN SINGH

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

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Navbharat Times on the July 11, 2002 with the captioned 'CGHS ke aspatalon mein davaon ki bhari killat';
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken to improve the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(d): The information is given at Annexure-'A'.

ANNEXURE-'A'

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): The news item mentions about the functioning of CGHS dispensaries viz. shortage of staff and medicines, partial strike by para-medical staff, discrimination between VIP and non-VIP dispensaries, visiting specialists writing prescription liberally for local purchase in VIP areas, non-finalization of formulary due to vested interest, nexus between authorized local chemists and officials, etc.

In this connection, it is stated that due to a ban on recruitment by the Govt. of India, vacant posts in the CGHS could not be filled up. Moreover, the recommendations contained in the SIU Report of November, 1999 on the Norms Study of CGHS (Allopathic) dispensaries could not be fully implemented as the Hon'ble CAT, New Delhi vide order dated 21.3.2002 in OA No.1030/2001 has inter-alia stated that the recommendations in the above report relating to the categories of Chowkidar, Safaiwala and Laboratory staff is quashed and the respondents viz the UOI has been directed to conduct a fresh SIU study regarding work load in relation to these categories in CGHS dispensaries.

As per the notice served by the All India CGHS Employees Association, the ongoing protest by the para-medical staff working in CGHS dispensaries is in respect of their 22-Point charter of demands. Action has already been initiated to consider the demands of the Association in consultation with the concerned Deptts./agencies. A continuous dialogue has been maintained with the employees Association. Decisions on some of the demands have already been taken and communicated to the Association.

There is no discrimination between VIP and non-VIP area dispensaries as all the CMO In-charges of the dispensaries are equally empowered to procure medicines from the authorised local chemists appointed by the CGHS against the individual prescription of the beneficiary. Medicines are prescribed to the beneficiaries by the specialists as per the diagnosis/disease of the patient.

With a view to reduce shortage of medicines in CGHS dispensaries, a new comprehensive formulary for the CGHS has been notified on 14.2.2002. A consolidated indent for medicines in respect of all the CGHS dispensaries in the country has been made for early procurement of medicines for being supplied through the dispensaries.

Authorised Local chemists are appointed by the CGHS on the basis of maximum discount offered by them and other relevant criteria as laid down in the tender document for appointment of local chemist.

Surprise inspections are carried out by the Senior Officers of CGHS to supervise, guide and maintain discipline in the functioning of dispensaries. Moreover, a high-level task force comprising of senior officers of the M/o Health & Family Welfare and CGHS has been constituted to look in to the overall functioning of the dispensaries and action is taken based on the report of the task force, when necessary.