

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1534
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2002
HOSPITALS IN PUBLIC SECTOR
PRABHA RAU;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

- (a) whether the draft health policy of the Government inter alia identifies the public sector as a major provider of preventive and curative health care to the people and the private sector to play a supportive role;
- (b) if so, whether most of the hospitals in the public sector all over the country lack the basic infrastructure and are poorly managed and unable to provide the basic minimum health services to the people; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): Government has already announced the National Health Policy-2002 (NHP-2002). Currently it is estimated that about 17% of the aggregate expenditure on health is incurred by public health institutions and the remaining is out-of pocket expenditure. The NHP-2002 welcomes the participation of the private sector in all areas of health activities with suitable regulatory mechanism.

(b) & (c): Improved health care indices such as increase in life expectancy, decrease in infant mortality, birth and death rates and epidemiological shifts in terms of reduction in malaria and leprosy cases, eradication of small pox and guinea worm, and near eradication of polio suggests that the health care infrastructure created by the Government has served the people well, although there is always scope for improvement. Government is making every effort to achieve better health care for its people by adopting a variety of measures including the implementation of several National Disease Control Programmes for control of major communicable and non-communicable diseases. Outlays for these programmes are augmented by mobilising resources from external agencies. To provide quality health services to the people, especially to the poor and the underserved, State Health Systems Project are presently being implemented with World Bank assistance in seven States (Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh). Additional central assistance for health is also provided to the States under Prime Minister Gramodaya Yojana. Government is also implementing a scheme for providing assistance to States for establishment of Trauma Centres in hospitals located on highways and also for strengthening diagnostic facilities in Government medical colleges.

Also, in order to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country - the main objective of NHP-2002 - the approach would be to increase access to the decentralised public health system by establishing new infrastructure in deficient areas and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing institutions. The policy also emphasizes on increasing the aggregate public health investment from the existing level of 0.9% of GDP to 2% of GDP by 2010.