

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:652
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2003
IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY OF HEALTH SERVICES
RADHA MOHAN SINGH

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

- (a) the measures being taken to improve the quality of health services in the country;
- (b) whether any assistance is likely to be taken in this regard from WHO, World Bank and other International Agencies;
- (c) whether the Government propose to constitute any new body with the cooperation of the NGOs associated with the drug manufacturers, chemists and laboratories to improve the quality of health services; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 652 FOR 07.5.2003

(a) Health is a State subject. Hence, State Governments are primarily responsible for the provision of preventive, promotive and curative health care services. However, Central Government extends assistance to various States in the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Health Programmes for control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Blindness, Leprosy and AIDS. The implementation of the disease control programmes in all the States has brought about a general improvement in the various health indicators in the country. A vast rural health care infrastructure comprising 1,37,211 Sub-Centres, 22,842 Primary Health Centres and 3043 Community Health Centres have been established up to March, 2001 for provision of health care services. Funds are also provided under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) for improving the functional status of rural primary health care institutions.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government has been making every effort to augment the resources for health sector by mobilizing external assistance from various bilateral and multilateral agencies for supporting National Health Programmes. State Health System Projects with World Bank assistance aimed at improving and upgrading the secondary health care facilities are also presently under implementation in seven States.

The main objective of the Government's health policy is to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country by adopting the approach of increasing access to the decentralized public health system, by establishing

new infrastructure in deficient areas and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing institutions. The National Health Policy - 2002, envisages increasing public health investment to 2% of GDP by the year 2010 from the existing level of 0.9%. Therein, it is also proposed that State Governments would increase their expenditure on health sector from 5.5% at present to 7% of their total budget by 2005 and to 8% of the budget by 2010. The Central Government contribution would rise from the existing level of 15% to 25% of the total public health spending by 2010. The Government is making all out efforts to increase expenditure on health as envisaged in the National Health Policy - 2002, subject to the overall financial constraints.

(c) & (d): There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.