

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:231
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2004
SHORTAGE OF ANTIBIOTICS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS
Rawat Shri Bachi Singh;Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there is a great shortage of antibiotics in the Government Hospitals in the country particularly in Safdarjung Hospital as reported in the Times of India dated June 17, 2004;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether the patients are told to purchase common medicines from the market since the same are not available with them;
- (d) if so, the facts and details in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken to ensure availability of essential drugs like antibiotics in the hospitals?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 231 FOR 21ST JULY, 2004

It is not correct to say that in Safdarjung Hospital, there is shortage of essential antibiotics and only Augmentin, the sole antibiotic, is available for treating the patients in the hospital. Various antibiotics and essential drugs including Magnamycin, Augnatax, Fortum, Streptokinases and the latest 4th generation Cephalosporins Antibiotics are available in the hospital. In Safdarjung Hospital, which is providing wide range of treatment facilities in various speciality and super-speciality disciplines, number of drugs and antibiotics are supplied free of cost to the patients according to the formulary and as per existing policy.

The hospital formulary for OPD includes about 110 drugs including 17 antibiotics and formulary for indoor patients includes 796 drugs out of which 144 are antibiotics. Approximately 50 essential and frequently used antibiotics are stored in adequate quantities for meeting the requirement of the hospital for a period of 2-3 months, based on the shelf life and the monthly consumption pattern of the antibiotics. In case of non-availability of essential and life saving drugs including antibiotics, the same are procured and supplied to the poor patients free of cost.

In all other Central Government hospitals like Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College and its associated hospitals, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, JIPMER, Pondicherry, PGIMER, Chandigarh also, no shortage of antibiotics and other essential medicines are reported.