

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3072
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004
INCREASING MEDICAL EXPENDITURE
Barq Shri Shafiqur Rahman

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been continuous increase in the expenditure incurred on the medical head by the Government during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that even after increasing the expenditure the general public do not get proper medical treatment in time; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Although in absolute terms the public expenditure on health has been increasing, the per capita public expenditure on health according to the World Health Reports of WHO has remained at around \$ 4 during the last few years. Also as a percentage of GDP, the public health expenditure has been more or less stagnant at less than 1%, during the last few years.

(c) & (d) As enunciated in the National Health Policy - 2002, it is the endeavour of Govt. to achieve an acceptable standard of good health to the general population of the country by increasing access to the decentralized public health system. For this Govt. have taken various steps. A vast net work of rural health infrastructure has been created. Govt. also provides assistance to states for improvement of the health infrastructure. All out efforts are made to mobilize assistance from bilateral and multilateral agencies for implementation of various National Health Programmes for control of major communicable and non-communicable disease like Malaria, TB, Leprosy, AIDS, Blindness, Cancer and Mental Health. State Health Systems Projects are also being implemented with World Bank assistance in seven states to improve the health infrastructure in rural areas, especially for the poor and the underserved. However, despite all efforts, differences in availability of health care facilities exist across states and there may be some shortcomings with regard to quality of healthcare in terms of supply of drugs, deployment of health professionals and availability of diagnostic facilities.