

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2928  
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004  
IRREGULARITIES IN DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICINES  
Barq Shri Shafiqur Rahman

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the medicines distributed in Government hospitals free of cost do not reach the needy persons;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): Health being a State subject, it is for the respective State Government to ensure that medicines are distributed in Government Hospitals free of cost should reach to the needy persons. However, in Central Government Hospitals, medicines are distributed free of cost to the patients according to hospital formulary as per existing policy. The life saving medicines, in emergency requirement, are also procured and supplied to the poor and needy patients. Further, assistance for procurement of costly medicines is also provided to the patients of below poverty line out of Rastriya Arogya Nidhi.