

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:167  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2004  
SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS AND MEDICINES IN SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL  
Singh Shri Sitaram

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the shortage of doctors and medicines in the country especially in the Safdarjung Hospital ;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is also aware about the difficulties of the patients due to shortage of doctors and medicines ;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the shortage of doctors and supply of medicines in the Safdarjung Hospital ; and
- (d) the funds allocated by the Government to Safdarjung Hospital for procurement of medicines during the last two years?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): Due to the instructions of the Government, the Department of Personnel & Training vide their O.M. No. 2/8/2001-PIC dated 16.5.2001, prescribing a limit that the Direct Recruitment can be resorted only against 1/3rd of the vacancies arising in a year subject to a further ceiling of 1% of the total sanctioned strength, this Department is not in a position to fill up all the posts of doctors in various Government hospitals including Safdarjung Hospital.

As it has been found difficult to apply these instructions for vacancies in Health Sector, Department of Health has already taken up the matter at the highest level seeing exemption of technical/scientific posts from the purview of the DOPT instructions dated 16.5.2001 so that the shortage of manpower is met.

Generally, there is no shortage of medicines in various Central Government Hospitals including Safdarjung Hospital. In these hospitals, medicines are distributed according to the formulary, free of cost, to patients, as per the existing policy. In case of non-availability of essential life-saving medicines, the same are also procured and supplied to poor patients free of cost.

The funds allocated for procurement of medicines to Safdarjung Hospital during the last two years is as under:-

Year	Non-Plan	Plan
2002-03	540.00 lacs	05.00 lacs
2003-04	611.09 lacs	128.00 lacs