

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:447

ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004

REFORMS IN HEALTH SECTOR

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken fresh steps to initiate reforms in the Health Sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount earmarked therefor;
- (d) the extent to which people are likely to be benefited therefrom; and
- (e) the other steps taken to provide health service to poor people in remote areas of the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): Government has continuously been initiating steps to reform the health sector. Increasing public investment in the health sector to take it to 2-3% of GDP in the next five years with focus on primary health care; national scheme for health insurance for poor families; stepping up of public investment for control of communicable diseases; providing leadership to the national AIDS control effort, ensuring availability of life saving drugs at reasonable prices and special attention to the poorer sections in the matter of health care are some of the policy initiatives are some of the steps that are being contemplated. No additional funds have been earmarked for these steps for the present. The population, including the poor, shall be benefited by these steps, as per capita expenditure on health care will increase and morbidity and mortality on account of communicable diseases will be contained.

(e): Government has been implementing National Disease Control Programmes for control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Leprosy, AIDS, Blindness, Cancer and Mental Health throughout the country. Medicines are provided free of cost under these programmes. To provide quality healthcare services to the people, especially the rural poor and the under-served, State Health Systems Projects are being implemented with World Bank assistance in selected states to upgrade the health infrastructure. A community based universal health insurance scheme is being implemented in which the Government contributes Rs.100 per year per BPL family towards the annual premium so as to ensure the affordability of the scheme to the families living below the poverty line. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) has been launched for setting up institutions on the pattern of AIIMS in certain under-served states and upgrading existing institutions in certain remaining under-served states/regions to meet the demand for super specialty health services. To improve the availability of doctors in rural areas, some State Governments have already made rural service compulsory before admission to P.G. courses or at the time of initial appointment.