

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:318
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2010
FREE MEDICINES TO BPL FAMILIES
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

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

- (a) whether Government provides free medicines to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) patients in the Government Hospitals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether complaints have been received about the quality of medicines made available to BPL patients; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b) Health is a State subject and the provision of drugs in the hospitals is made by the State Governments. Government of India only supplements the efforts of the State Governments under the National Rural Health Mission. The provision to provide free drugs is a State specific policy.

(c) & (d) Do not arise.