

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4768

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2010

CAG AUDIT REPORT ON NRHM

Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh; Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun; Owaisi Shri Asaduddin; Shekhar Shri Neeraj; Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad; Yadav Shri Sharad

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

- (a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its latest audit report has found several loopholes relating to funds management and health facilities under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and has recommended to establish essential infrastructure, equipment and manpower in Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres to ensure improvement in equality of healthcare in rural areas at an affordable cost;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any review of the implementation of the NRHM in various States/UTs;
- (d) if so, the details of the findings thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to plug these loopholes and to check doctors/pharmaceutical companies nexus to make the health services more effective under the NRHM?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in their report on the Performance Audit of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has made some recommendations to rationalize fund flow arrangements for speedy transfer of funds from Government of India to States, States to Districts and below, to minimize unspent balances, streamlining accounting procedures and proper maintenance of accounts. Further, it has also recommended establishment of new infrastructure i.e. health centres and strengthening and capacity building of existing ones. NRHM gives special focus to 18 States including eight NE States, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure. Besides, 140 backward districts based on ranking on 13 DLHS III indicators, districts having considerable population of SC/ST and 33 highly left wing affected districts as prepared by Ministry of Home Affairs were selected for high focus planning. The State/UT Governments were asked to take up activities for such districts on priority and incorporate the same in their annual Programme Implementation Plans [PIPs] for the financial year 2010-11. Funds are released to all States/UTs with the approval of the National Programme Coordination Committee [NPCC].

(c) & (d) Yes. Health is a state subject and the Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments. The Third Common Review Mission of NRHM (November, 2009), which covered 14 States and 3 Union Territories, looked at various aspects including the position with regard to diagnostics and logistics and supply chain management. The Report of the Common Review Mission was shared with all the States/UTs in a dissemination workshop. The follow up to the comments made are being monitored through the process of preparation of the Programme Implementation Plans. Promotion of rational drug use, finalization of essential drug lists in States, uninterrupted and adequate supply of drugs through a good logistics and supply chain management and improved diagnostics are all priorities of the NRHM.

(e) As regards the recommendations on financial management, this Ministry has put in place a monthly concurrent audit in addition to annual statutory audit, periodic financial reviews and reviews are also undertaken by Common Review Missions and Joint Review Missions. Regarding doctors/pharmaceutical companies nexus, the Indian Medical Council [Professional conduct, Etiquette and Ethics] Regulations, 2002 were amended by Medical Council of India with the prior approval of Government of India providing that a medical practitioner shall not endorse any drug or product of the industry publically.