

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:874

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2011

MEDICAL EXPENSES

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

- (a) whether the Indians bear 78 per cent of medical expenses on their own as per an analysis published in a section of media;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the current Out of Pocket (OoP) expenses on health care in India as compared to global standards;
- (d) whether nearly 39 million people in India are pushed to poverty because of ill health every year as per the said analysis;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the cost of healthcare/ out of pocket expenses on healthcare in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRVEDI)

(a) & (b) The finding of the paper published in the Lancet, is based on the data contained in the "National Health Accounts India (NHA) 2004-05 (with Provisional Estimates from 2005-06 to 2008-09)". According to NHA, 78.05% fund flow to Health Sector in the country in 2004-05 was through "Private Funds" consisting of Households (71.13%), Social Insurance (1.13%), Firms (5.73%) and NGOs (0.07%).

(c) A statement showing details of Out of Pocket (OoP) expenses on health care in India as compared to selected countries is at Annexed.

(d) & (e) As per the Lancet Report, an additional 39 million people in the country, plunged into poverty in 2004-05 because of Out-of-Pocket (OoP) spending on health care by households. Government has not carried out any study to corroborate or other-wise of the findings of the study.

(f) the steps taken by Government to enhance public health facilities in order to reduce the cost of healthcare in the country inter-alia, include:

Launching of National Rural Health Mission with a view to provide accessible affordable,accountable, effective and quality healthcare services especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. The Mission covers the entire country. However, it has indentified 18 States with weak public health indicators and weak health infrastructure for special attention. These include all hilly and north- eastern states amongst others.

Implementation of programmes for control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Mainstreaming of Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy.

Making available specialized health care services through strengthening of hospitals.

Increased public allocation for health programmes.