

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:739
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2011
PUBLIC FINANCING FOR HEALTHCARE
Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase public financing for healthcare particularly for primary healthcare and regulate drug prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide for universal health coverage in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) & (b): The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) aims at raising public health spending. In this direction, the public expenditure on health sector, which inter-alia includes primary healthcare, increased substantially over the past few years. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-08 to 2011-2012), the allocation to health sector for first four years (2007-08 to 2010-11) has increased to Rs. 72431 crore as against an actual expenditure of Rs, 36079 crore in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07).

Drug prices are being regulated and monitored by the Government under the provisions of the Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO) 1995. Under DPCO, the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs / formulations as per the DPCO 1995. The NPPA also examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations regularly.

(c) The steps taken by Government to enhance public health facilities in order to provide Universal Health Coverage 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 Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.

Making available specialized health care services through strengthening of hospitals.

Increased public allocation for health programmes

Implementation of Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) for prevention of diseases like Diphtheria, Polio, Measles, Tuberculosis, Tetanus etc.