

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1420
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2011
PUBLIC FINANCE FOR HEALTHCARE
Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

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

(a) whether increasing public financing for healthcare, allotting 70 per cent of funds for primary healthcare and regulating drug prices are the key factors that would go towards providing universal health coverage in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) & (b) Increased public financing for health care along-with regulating drug prices are among the factors that result in providing universal health coverage in India. 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 actual allocation to health sector increased to Rs. 99191 crore as against an actual expenditure of Rs. 36079 crore in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07).

"Health" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to ensure adequate, affordable and accessible health care to its citizens by taking necessary steps to increase the public financing. However, to improve access to primary and secondary health delivery services, Government of India provides financial assistance to State Governments for up-gradation of health infrastructure development as per need. State-wise allocation of funds by Union Government in respect of National Rural Health Mission and National Aids Control Programme for the years 2007-08 and 2010-11 is at annexure. Similarly, opening of Jan Aushadhi Stores to make available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all would also help in providing universal health coverage. So far, 81 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened in the States of Punjab (20), Rajasthan (36), Haryana (04), Uttarakhand (02), Andhra Pradesh (03), Odisha (08), West Bengal (02), Delhi (03) and Chandigarh (03).