

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1455
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2011
ESSENTIAL DRUGS AND PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH
Patel Shri Devji

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote certain essential drugs with a view to providing low cost health care in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the per capita expenditure on health care in our country is less in comparison to other countries;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the per capita expenditure on health care?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes. The National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) prepared by the Government contains the list of medicines required to meet the common contemporary health needs of general population of the country.

(c) to (e): "Health" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to ensure adequate, affordable and accessible health care to the citizens. 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. In this regard, the Government of India has raised the plan outlay for the health sector to Rs. 99,191 crore in the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12) as against the actual expenditure of Rs. 36,079 crore in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07).