

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3215

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2011

PUBLIC SPENDING IN HEALTH

Mandal Dr. Tarun;Singh Shri Vijay Bahadur;Sugumar Shri K. ;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether inadequate funding of public health and consequent deterioration of public health facilities has led to decline in the share of public health expenditure;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the future action plan of the Government to increase the expenditure on health in the remaining years of the Eleventh Five Year Plan and the Twelfth Five Year Plan;
- (d) whether poor facilities and rising cost of healthcare at even Government hospitals are pushing people towards more expensive private setups resulting in large section of society going bankrupt or without treatment;
- (e) if so, whether the Government is aware of the report of NSSO in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to improve public health infrastructure and services, especially in rural areas of the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (b): There is no available evidence suggesting a deterioration of public health facilities due to inadequate funding of public health in India.

(c): The Central Plan Allocation for the Health sector for the year 2011-12 increased to Rs. 26760 crore from Rs. 22300 crore in 2010-11. As per the presentation 'Issues for Approach to Twelfth Five Year Plan' made in the full Planning Commission Meeting held on 21st April 2011, it has been indicated that the expenditure on health by Centre and States needs to be increased from 1.3% of GDP at present, to 2.0 per cent and perhaps even 2.5 per cent by the end of the Twelfth Five Year Plan.

(d) to (f): As per the publication titled "Morbidity, Health Care and The Condition of the Aged - NSS 60th Round" brought out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, borrowings and other sources (including sale of ornaments and other physical assets, draught animals, etc.) accounted for 40% of the average total expenditure on account of hospitalization, for the period January- June 2004. It also indicated that majority among the poor sections of the society availed government facility namely public hospitals and public dispensary services for hospitalisation during the same time period.

The Government has taken several steps to provide accessible, affordable and accountable health care facilities to all sections of the people that, inter-alia include:

# Launching of National Rural Health Mission

# 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.

# Setting up of AIIMS like medical Institutions/strengthening of Government medical colleges in States

# Increased public allocations for health programmes.