

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4132

ANSWERED ON:26.08.2011

FREE MEDICINES TO POORS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Rajbhar Shri Ramashankar; Singh Shri Rakesh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide free medicines to poor and under privileged people under the National Rural Health Mission Scheme (NRHM);
- (b) if so, the Government has issued direction to all State Governments in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred on distribution of free medicines to poor and under privileged people across the country;
- (d) whether any rules/guidelines have been framed for doctors to prescribe cheap/ generic medicines; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) to (c) Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram launched recently under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) entitles all pregnant women accessing public health institutions completely free deliveries including free medicine with zero out of pocket expenses. The scheme also provides for free treatment to all new born during the first 30 days of their birth. State Governments have been asked to implement this initiative in June 2011.

Besides this, various State Governments provide free medicine to poor from their State budget and also from funds provided under NRHM. For this States/UTs project their requirements in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs).

(d) & (e) Government has issued order in May 2010 to all Central Government Health Institutions to prescribe cheap/generic medicines.