

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:327  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2011  
MEDICAL CONSULTANCY  
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) the status of induction of IT solution in the field of healthcare delivery and medicine, especially in far-flung and inaccessible areas;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to provide medical consultancy through wireless broadband and video conferencing for the people in the rural areas who do not have direct access to doctors;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 327 FOR 16TH DECEMBER, 2011

The Government recognizes that e-health initiatives can be used to expand the reach, range and quality of health care services that are being provided under the existing public health systems. The elements of text and sound combined with the medical images using high speed bandwidth telecommunication systems can be used to provide health services to the poor citizens across the country covering the far flung areas. However, this would depend on availability of connectivity and network.

As a part of the initiative, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing a Scheme of net-working of the Government medical colleges. Under the scheme, Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Science, Lucknow, has been identified to function as the National Resource Centre (NRC) as well as Regional Resource Centre (RRC) and the national network hub supported by five other regional hubs viz All India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi, Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry, KEM Medical College, Mumbai and North-Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong. This project will provide platform for tele-education, training, distance learning, continuing professional development and sharing of information on healthcare, education and research in the first phase.

Under the scheme, Rs.18.78 crores was given to the State Governments to facilitate establishment of National Rural Telemedicine Network for delivery improved Primary Health Services in rural and underserved areas; Rs.1.43 crores was for Onconet India Project and Rs.3.37 crores for Tele-ophthalmology. Besides this, some state governments have also taken initiative to provide IT enabled services in health care.