

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1604

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CADRE

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

(a) whether a high level expert group constituted by the Planning Commission on universal health coverage has mooted a proposal for a new public health service cadre consisting of health workers to fight the public health threats during the Twelfth Plan period as reported in media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether modalities for this new cadre have been worked out;

(d) if so; the details there of; and

(e) the details of other major recommendations made by the expert group and the action taken/ proposed to be taken thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) & (b): A High Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) was constituted by the Planning Commission. The relevant recommendation (page 34) of the HLEG reads as under:

Recommendation 3.6.1: Introduce All India and state level Public Health Service Cadres and a specialized state level Health Systems Management Cadre in order to give greater attention to public health and also strengthen the management of the UHC system.

All India Public Health Service Cadre should be responsible for all public health functions starting at the block level and going up to the state and national level. Such a new cadre comprising of public health professionals with multidisciplinary education would improve the functioning of the health system by enhancing the efficacy, efficiency and effectiveness of health care delivery.

This cadre should be supported by a state level public health cadre. This would be akin to the civil services, which provide for both All-India and state level cadres. While the state-level cadre will provide the operational frame work of public health services, the All-India cadre will not only strengthen state health services with a high level of professional expertise but also provide strong connectivity between state and central planning.

HLEG has also recommended creation of a Health Systems Management Cadre that should be made responsible for managing public sector service provision as well as the contracted-in private sector. Quality assessment and quality assurance for health facilities will be a major function for this cadre. These Health System managers should take over many of the administrative responsibilities in areas such as IT, finance, human resources, planning and communication that are currently performed by medical personnel.

HLEG has also recommended the appointment of appropriately trained hospital managers at sub district, district hospitals and medical college hospitals so as to improve the managerial efficiency and also enable medical officers and specialists to concentrate on clinical activities.

(c) to (e): The report of the HLEG is under examination and recommendations approved by the Government would be implemented in the 12th Five Year Plan.