

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:897

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011

PUBLIC HEALTH SPENDING

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Bhoi Shri Sanjay; Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo; Mandlik Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba; Mishra Shri Govind Prasad; Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada; Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia; Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash; Shekhar Shri Neeraj; Singh Shri Rakesh; Singh Shri Yashvir; Venugopal Shri P.; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether 70% of Indians spend their entire income on health care and purchasing drugs according to a World Health Organisation (WHO) report;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons for the high public health spending in the country in comparison to other Asian countries;
- (c) whether the Government has appointed any committee to look into the matter;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main recommendations made by the Committee;
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any monitoring system for the rational use of medicines as suggested by WHO; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in putting a monitoring system for the rational use of medicines as suggested by WHO and also free distribution of essential medicines as recommended by the Planning Commission?

**Answer**

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

(a): There is no World Health Organisation (WHO) report which states that 70% of Indians spend their entire income on health care and purchasing drugs,

(b) to (d): Does not arise.

(e) & (f): Government has from time to time issued guidelines to the Central Government hospitals and requested State Governments to instruct doctors to prescribe generic drugs. The National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) has been revised and notified in 2011 with a total of 348 medicines (excluding repetitions).

The High Level Expert Group instituted by the Planning Commission, in their Report on Universal Health Coverage for India, has recommended for ensuring availability of free essential medicines by increasing public spending on drug procurement. The Report has been submitted to the Planning Commission for their consideration.