

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3847
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2012
HIGH COST OF MEDICAL TREATMENT
Singh Shri Ravneet

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

- (a) whether the country has witnessed huge rise in cost of medical treatment over the years;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (c) the increase in this rise in cost in 2011-12 as compared to 2000-01;
- (d) whether the treatment has been made costly even in Government hospitals on the line of private sector hospitals; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) & (b) The impact of rising health costs has been engaging the attention of the Government. 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 with a view to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and quality healthcare services, especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population.

Implementation of programmes for control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Increased public allocation for health programmes.

(c) The Wholesale Price Indices (WPI) (base 2004-05=100) in respect of Drugs and Medicines has increased to 119.50 in 2011-12 (Provisional) as against 91.43 in 2000-01. The Annual Average All India Medical Care Sub-group indices of Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers on base 2001=100 show an increase to 162 in 2011.

(d) & (e) Information regarding cost of treatment in State Government Hospitals is not maintained centrally. However, as far as three Central Government Hospitals namely Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and Lady Harding Medical College & Associated Hospitals in Delhi are concerned, no fee is charged from the patients for doctors' consultation and most of the tests for which facilities are available in the Hospitals are done free of cost. Nominal charges are levied for certain type of investigations and procedures. However, BPL category patients/CGHS beneficiaries are exempted from such charges. In the Central Government hospitals in Delhi, these charges are fixed by Directorate General of Health Services/Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.