

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7079
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2012
TELE MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY
Jindal Shri Naveen

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

- (a) the present scenario of the usage of tele-medicine technologies by the public as well as private health care providers in the country;
- (b) the potential of these technologies in improving health care services accessibility in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has been encouraging setting up of as well as usage of tele-medicine infrastructure in the country especially in the remote/backward areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The Government recognizes that e-health initiatives can be used to expand the reach, range and quality of healthcare services being provided under the existing public health systems to provide health services to the poor citizens across the country covering far flung areas.

As a part of e-health initiatives, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has given Rs.18.78 crores to the State Governments to facilitate establishment of National Rural Telemedicine Network for delivery of 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. It has also initiated a scheme of networking of Govt. Medical Colleges across the country to provide platform for tele-education, training, distance learning, continuing professional development and sharing of information on healthcare, education and research.

Department of Electronics & Information Technology (Deity) has funded a number of projects on development and pilot-level deployment of telemedicine solutions as part of its R&D and technology promotion activities in different States, some of which have been taken over by the States themselves.