

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:331

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2012

FREE-MEDICINES-TO-ALL

Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal;Panda Shri Prabodh

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

- (a) the status of the proposed plan for `free-medicines-to-all` including life saving drugs for patients visiting Government hospitals across the country;
- (b) the funds earmarked for the plan alongwith the extent to which free medicines are likely to help the poor patients to cut out-of-pocket expenditure on health care;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to expand the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in urban areas; and
- (d) if so, the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented in the urban areas?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 331 FOR 27 APRIL, 2012

(a)&(b): Health is a state subject and State Governments are providing health care including drugs to the patients. In order to strengthen the hands of the State Governments, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is providing additional support under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for overall health system strengthening including infrastructure, human resources, drugs etc. States are encouraged and supported to provide free medicines to patients in Government health facilities under NRHM, Further, a new initiative called Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) has been launched under which funding is given to the States for providing medicines free of cost to all pregnant women who access the Government health facilities for delivery as well as sick neonates born to them upto 30 days after birth.

(c)to(d): To address the healthcare needs of the urban population, there is a proposal to launch National Urban Health Mission (NUHM). The proposal is in advance stage of consideration and its implementation is dependent on receipt of requisite approval.