

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:25  
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009  
COMPULSORY BLOOD TEST FOR DIABETES  
Singh Shri Ganesh;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether a large percent of the country's rural population suffers from diabetes;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to conduct compulsory blood test for diabetes for India's rural masses;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;
- (d) whether the Government also proposes to provide free diabetes medicines to the rural masses living below poverty line who test positive; and
- (e) if so, the details in this regard?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 25 FOR 20TH NOVEMBER, 2009

Exact number of diabetics in India is not known. However, estimates are based on various epidemiological studies. According to ICMR, WHO estimates suggest that there were 32 million diabetics in India in 2004 and it is projected that India would have largest number of diabetics (80 million) in the world by 2030.

Facilities for testing diabetes such as blood sugar are usually available at Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs). However, many people remain unaware that they could be at risk for diabetes and do not seek investigations or treatment. For this reason, Government of India has launched a National Programme for Prevention and Control of Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke on a Pilot basis in 10 districts in 10 States which among other things, seeks to facilitate early detection of this disease. This is in consonance with the internationally accepted strategy of 'opportunistic screening'. An outlay of Rs.1660.50 crore has been allotted for NPDCS during 11th Five Year Plan which will cover the entire country eventually.

The Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) which are a set of Public Health Standards for various health care delivery systems, interalia, recommend that oral drugs for diabetes as well as insulin should be made available at the CHCs and PHCs. Health being a state subject, whether these drugs are to be given free or not is for the state to decide. However, as per information available from some of the States, Government of Assam, Kerala, Orissa are giving both Insulin and oral drugs free of cost to their patients whereas Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Haryana are giving oral drugs free of cost.