

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:334

ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009

EQUITABLE MEDICAL CARE FOR ALL

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

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to provide equitable medical care for all in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to introduce a new alternative model education in the country aimed primarily at generation of rural health manpower; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The Government has already operationalised National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to provide equitable medical care to all citizens in the country. Comprehensive rejuvenation of the public health delivery system has been undertaken in partnership with states under the NRHM. The NRHM envisages a fully functional, community owned, decentralized health delivery system to provide preventive, promotive and curative services to the community. The NRHM was launched on 12th April 2005, to provide accessible, affordable and accountable quality health services to the poorest households in the remotest rural regions. Under NRHM, the difficult areas with unsatisfactory health indicators were classified as special focus States to ensure greatest attention where needed. The thrust of the Mission was on establishing a fully functional, community owned, decentralized health delivery system with inter sectoral convergence at all levels, to ensure simultaneous action on a wide range of determinants of health like water, sanitation, education, nutrition, social and gender equality.

Reforms in medical education are imperative for sustainable health sector reforms in the country. NRHM envisages state specific solutions for generation of rural health human resources. Under NRHM, states have undertaken innovative steps to improve availability of trained health human resources. These steps include starting short courses in service delivery, rationalizing the pre-service trainings to align the skills to needs of the health system, multiskilling of service providers, additional trainings like SBE, CEmOc trainings etc.