

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4017
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2012
REFORMS IN HEALTH SECTOR
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up a Task Force to suggest reforms in the Health Sector;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations of this Task Force;
- (c) the recommendations which have been implemented;
- (d) the recommendations which have not been acted upon or are pending for implementation; and
- (e) the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) : Yes, Sir. To help define a comprehensive strategy for health for the Twelfth Plan, the Planning Commission constituted a High Level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage under the Chairmanship of Dr. K Srinath Reddy with following terms of reference (ToRs) :

1. Develop a blue print and investment plan for meeting the human resource requirements to achieve health for all by 2020.
2. Rework the physical and financial norms needed to ensure quality, universal reach and access of health care services, particularly in under-served areas and to indicate the relative role of private and public service providers in this context.
3. Suggest critical management reforms in order to improve efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of the health delivery system.
4. Develop guidelines for the constructive participation of communities, local elected bodies, NGOs, the private for-profit and not-for-profit sector in the delivery of health care.
5. Propose reforms in policies related to the production, import, pricing, distribution and regulation of essential drugs, vaccines and other essential health care related items, for enhancing their availability and reducing cost to consumer.
6. Explore the role of health insurance system that offers universal access to health services with high subsidy for the poor and a scope for building up additional levels of protection on a payment basis.

(b) : The HLEG has envisioned that "Every citizen should be entitled to essential primary, secondary and tertiary health care services that will be guaranteed by the Central government. The range of essential health care services offered as a National Health Package (NHP) will cover all common conditions and high-impact, cost-effective health care interventions for reducing health-related mortality and disability. A panel of experts should determine the package of services taking into account the resource availability as well as the health care needs of the country".

The HLEG has recognized that the transformation of India's health system to become an effective platform for UHC is an evolutionary process that will span several years. It has recommended the implementation of suggested strategy during the Twelfth and Thirteenth plan periods.

(c) to (e): The recommendations of High Level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage for India are under consideration for suitable incorporation in the 12th Five Year Plan, which is under preparation and a final view will emerge after necessary consultations and approvals.