

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3570

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2012

PRIVATE SECTOR IN UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE

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

- (a) whether there are certain differences between his Ministry and the Planning Commission about private sector partnership in universal healthcare;
- (b) if so, the points on which the difference exists and the reasons for the same;
- (c) the details of the services where private sector partnership will start;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to sign contract with certain charitable health institutes for ensuring universal healthcare;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the action is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to develop the spectrum of telemedicine facilities in India?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY)

(a) No.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) to (e): Public health is a State subject and its implementation primarily rests with the State Governments. Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), the States submit their proposals in the form of Annual Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) to Government of India as per their felt need and priorities, including proposals of public private partnerships. These are appraised and Government of India approves the PIP for each State.

(f) Health has been declared as a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). The Government of India has started e-health initiative and expanded the reach, range and quality of health care services which are being provided under the existing public health systems.

During the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12), the following measures were taken as part of Telemedicine initiative of the Government:

1. An amount of Rs.6.12 crore was released for expansion of pilot programme on Tele-Ophthalmology under Telemedicine.
2. Rs. 4.13 crore grant-in-aid was released to NIC services New Delhi for Onconet India Project Phase.
3. Rs.18.78 crore were released to States/UTs under National Rural Tele Medicine Network (NRTN).

Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) also, Rs.10.34 crore has been allocated to States/UTs under Telemedicine related facilities/activities in 2012-13.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s telemedicine facility connects the remote District Hospitals/Health Centres with Super Specialty Hospitals in cities, through the INSAT Satellites for providing expert consultation to the needy and underserved population. Mobile telemedicine units have also been used to benefit needy and underserved populations in rural health camps.