

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1316

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2012

FREE MEDICINES TO ALL PATIENTS .

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

- (a) the number of hospitals/Community Health Centres (CHCs)/Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the rural and urban areas, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has made a provision of Rs. 1,300 crore under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) Scheme for States on account of purchase of medicines for free distribution;
- (c) if so, the funds to be distributed to each State;
- (d) whether the Government has any mechanism for monitoring the free distribution of medicines and to check the misuse of funds/medicines;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Union Government has asked the States to prepare a policy articulation document in essential drugs list, standard treatment protocols and a procurement system to streamline the implementation of NRHM;and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): The number of hospitals/Community Health Centres (CHCs)/Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the rural areas as per Rural Health Statistic in India,2011 is attached as Annexure-I.

In urban areas, as on date there are 1083 Urban Health and Family Welfare Centres and 871 Urban Health Posts supported by Government of India.

(b) & (c): The State/UT wise allocation of funds is attached as Annexure –II.

(d)& (e): Public Health is a State subject. Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), financial support is provided to the States to strengthen their health systems. Each State has a mechanism to monitor the implementation of activities approved under their Programme Implementation Plans including free distribution of drugs. States are also given support under NRHM for monitoring and supervision. Further to assess the implementation of various activities under the Mission including implementation of free distribution of essential medicines, annual Common Review Mission and Integrated Monitoring visits are undertaken. Besides, the States are required to submit a quarterly report on physical and financial progress against targets and expenditure.

(f) & (g): As mentioned in (d) and (e) above, Public Health is a state subject. Financial support is provided to States under National Rural Health Mission to strengthen the health system including supply of drugs based on the requirement proposed by the State in their annual Programme Implementation Plans. States are being incentivized up to 5% of their total outlay to prepare policy and establish systems for free distribution of essential drugs including preparation of Essential Drug List (EDL). Standard Treatment Protocols, robust procurement system etc for free distribution of essential medicines in Public Health facilities.