

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1944

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2013

FREE MEDICINES TO ALL

Chaudhary Shri Jayant;Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh;Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan;Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa;Thomas Shri P. T.;Tomar Shri Narendra Singh

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

- (a) the present status of the implementation of the national scheme for free medicines for all through public health centres;
- (b) whether all the States/UTs have been submitting the report on physical and financial progress about targets and expenditure incurred on the scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the estimated funds required for the purpose during the next three years;
- (e) the plan to procure/sustain supply of medicines and methodology for distribution on the drugs; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that these facilities reach the intended beneficiaries?

Answer

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

(a) There is a mention in the Health chapter of the 12th Five Year Plan document about providing free essential drugs in public facilities for reducing out of pocket expenditure on health care. However, no such national scheme has been prepared so far.

Public Health is a State subject. Financial support is provided to States under National Rural Health Mission to strengthen their health system, including funds for supply of essential drugs free of cost in public health facilities, based on the requirements proposed by the State Governments in their annual Programme Implementation Plans.

(b) to (f): In view of above, question does not arise.