

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:920
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2013
IT SYSTEMS IN HEALTH SECTOR
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to invest in developing Information Technology (IT) systems in order to decentralize the health sector and measure qualitative outcomes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the funds being allocated by the Government for the purpose;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to introduce IT systems to transmit samples in laboratories; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to increase the use of IT tools in the health sector?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) Government wants to increase the use of IT tools in the health sector. The Twelfth five year plan document mentions that Information Technology (IT) can be used in at least four different ways to improve health care and systems.

1. Support public health decision making for better management of health programmes and health systems at all levels,
2. Support to service providers for better quality of care and follow up;
3. Provision of quality services in remote locations through Tele-medicine; and
4. Supporting education, and continued learning in medicine and health

Health has been included as the Mission Mode Project (MMP) under National Governance Plan (NeGP). In this regard, various IT initiatives such as Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS), Tracking system for Tuberculosis (NIKHAY) and Health Management Information System (HMIS) have been taken for improving health service delivery in the country.

Further, National Institute of Smart Government (NISG) has been engaged to prepare a core scoping document that will identify the key priorities for IT in Health and Family Welfare sector. There is no proposal to introduce IT systems to transmit samples in laboratories.