

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1917
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2013
SMS FACILITIES FOR PATIENTS
Ganpatrao Shri Jadhav Prataprao;Singh Shri Ratan

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

- (a) whether the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) has started the practice of sending Short Message Service (SMS) to the CGHS beneficiaries regarding issuance of medicines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of cases detected/identified regarding issue of the medicines to unauthorised persons, during the last three years and the current year so far;
- (d) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

- (a) & (b): Yes. SMS-Alert system has been started from 6th July, 2012 to check the misuse of CGHS cards by unauthorized persons. Currently the service is provided by NIC, free of cost.
- (c) & (d): No such cases` of issuing medicines to unauthorized persons have been reported. However, a few cases of pilferage of medicines have been detected in past and appropriate action have been taken in those cases. The SMS - Alert system has been introduced to check the misuse of CGHS cards by unauthorized persons.