

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2304
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2013
TELEMEDICINE NETWORK
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) the present status of the use of telemedicine technology for the delivery of better health services in the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to expand the network of telemedicine, particularly in the rural and underserved areas across the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated and utilised for the purpose?

Answer

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

(a): Many of Tertiary and Secondary care medical institutions across the country, both in government and private sector, are involved in Telemedicine health care delivery services. Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) and Department of Space (ISRO) established the Telemedicine facilities initially in various States in the country.

Under National Rural Telemedicine Network of MoHFW pilot projects were funded in all states which are now being scaled up under assistance from NRHM.

To facilitate Cancer care, all the Regional Cancer Centers along with four peripheral hospitals at district level were networked under OncoNET project.

Tele-ophthalmology Projects have been deployed in most of the states empowering Vision Centers to link Expert Eye centers.

National Medical College Network- a Project has been prepared to link Government medical colleges having NKN connectivity. Under National Optical Fibre Network (Ministry of Communications & IT) Initiative three sites are under Pilot Project of Telemedicine.

(b): Yes.

(c): MoHFW is looking at initiatives (NKN, SWAN and NOFN) of Govt. of India to formally have National Medical College Network for Tele-education, Tele-CME, and with NOFN National Rural Telemedicine Network for Tele- consultation, Tele follow-up, Access to digital libraries and Health Education. In 12th FYP Rs. 122 Crore have been allocated for e-Health including Telemedicine.

For National Rural Telemedicine Network a Grant-in-Aid of Rs19.83 crore in 2007-08 and 2008-09 was released to all the States / UTs

Funds were released for Tele-ophthalmology, Onconet & Healthy India Website Projects (Details in Annexure)