

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2384  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2013  
ISSUANCE OF BLOOD SUGAR LEVEL TESTING STRIPS  
Kalmadi Shri Suresh

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

- (a) whether blood sugar level testing strips are not issued to the diabetic patients to the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries;
- (b) if so, the name of other such devices which are not issued to the CGHS beneficiaries;
- (c) the reasons for not issuing such devices keeping in view that these devices are very costly and poor/middle class patients cannot afford them; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government for issuance of such devices including blood sugar level testing strips to the CGHS beneficiaries?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a): As per the existing guidelines, the competent authority grants permission for reimbursement of expenses on glucostrips to CGHS beneficiaries in the following categories related to diabetic mellitus, on the advice of specialists of Government Hospitals:-

1. Diabetic Cellulitis
2. Diabetic foot/Diabetic Gangrene
3. Diabetes Mellitus with CRF stage III & above
4. Diabetes Mellitus type I
5. Brittle Diabetes Mellitus
6. Diabetes Mellitus Type II during initiation of Insulin (one month only).

The maximum limit of glucostrips to be reimbursed has been kept as 25 per month limited to the rate of Rs. 25/- per strip.

(b) to (d ): Glucometer is issued to the CGHS beneficiaries suffering from diabetic gangrene to monitor the sugar level on regular basis. However, the cost of the Glucometer to be used in the Glucometer would have to be borne by the beneficiaries themselves.