GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2520
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2013
FREE GENERIC MEDICINES
Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh;Pakkirappa Shri S.;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated a scheme to provide free generic medicines through Government Hospitals/ Health Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State/UT Govenment thereto along with the financial assistance to be provided by the Union Government for implementation of the scheme;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a Central Procurement agency for procurement of generic drugs and Regional Geriatric Centres across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up, State/UTwise; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to modernize all health centres in the country and provide cashless treatment?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): With the aim to provide affordable health care to the people by reducing their out of pocket expenses on medicines, an initiative for free supply of essential medicines to the patients availing treatments in public health facilities in the country has been approved in the 12th Five Year Plan to promote rational use of medicines and reduce the consumption of inessential medicines. There is an outlay of Rs.16,000 crore for this initiative in the 12th Plan. The initiative is based on the Tamil Nadu model where free medicines procured in bulk by the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC), in generic name, directly from the manufacturers is supplied through an IT enabled supply chain management system to the public.

(c)to(e): The Central Procurement Agency has already been registered in the name of the Central Medical Services Society. Modernization of health centers is the responsibility of the State / UT Governments. It is a continuous and ongoing process.