

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:125

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2013

FREE MEDICINES TO PATIENTS

Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Patil Shri A.T. Nana

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

- (a) whether the Government has initiated any plan for providing free supply of essential and life saving drugs to the patients availing treatments in public health care centres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the purpose during the 12th Five Year Plan, year and State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for proper monitoring of the funds and free availability of quality drugs in public health care centres/hospitals for the purpose?

Answer

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

(a)to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 125 FOR 13TH DECEMBER, 2013

Public Health being a state subject, the primary responsibility of providing free essential lifesaving medicines rests with the state governments. To supplement the efforts of States, Government of India has been providing free drugs /funds for free drugs to States/UTs under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) and National Disease Control Programmes for Tuberculosis, Vector borne diseases including Malaria, Leprosy and HIV/AIDS etc. Government is also encouraging the States/UTs to provide universal access to free essential medicines in public health facilities by providing funds and incentives under the National Health Mission (NHM). The State/UT-wise details of funds approved under NRHM during financial years 2012-13 and 2013-14 (upto October 2013) is at Annexure.

States/UTs have been requested to put in place robust procurement and IT enabled logistic systems, quality assurance mechanisms, prepare facility-wise Essential Drug List (EDLs) and Standard Treatment Guidelines and provide for prescription audits. Funds for setting up these systems are also being provided to States/UTs under NHM.