

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2595
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2009
DRUG BANKS
Bheiravdanji Shri Gadhi Mukeshkumar

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up drug banks in all the districts of the country to provide essential medicines to the poor people;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has earmarked any budget for this purpose;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that medicines are made available in time to the needy and poor in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): No, the Government does not propose to set up drug banks in all the districts of the country. Health is a state subject and states provide the essential medicines in public health facilities. Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) supportive steps have been taken to improve and ensure the availability of essential medicines to the needy and poor in the country.

Improvement in logistics and supply chain management is one of the core strategies of NRHM and proposals in this regard are part of the Annual Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) prepared by the states under NRHM.

Under NRHM, many states have already finalized the Essential Drug Lists and displayed them outside the health facilities. In many states decentralised procurement of medicines and strengthening of the drug warehousing capacity has been undertaken. Under NRHM, the Gol has funded the expanded medicines supply and supported the steps taken by the states to ensure uninterrupted availability of the medicines

The Gol has also disseminated the best practices of states in this regard amongst all other states so as to expand capacity of procurement and supply chain management.