

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:775

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013

AVAILABILITY OF MEDICINES FOR COMMON PEOPLE

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Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the pharma industry has progressed a lot in the country but 64 crore people are still deprived of medicines in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey or study across the country in respect of availability of essential and life saving drugs for the common/poor people of the country;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether 50 to 80 percent of the people do not have access to these drugs; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to ensure easy availability of drugs to the common/poor people of the country at affordable prices, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) to (f): As per World Health Organization (WHO) report 'The World Medicines Situation', the number of people without regular access to essential medicines in the year 1999 was projected to be 649 million.

As per study by Planning Commission "High Level Expert Group Report on Universal Health Coverage for India", 2.84% inpatient and 26.01% of outpatient could not receive medicines. One of the reasons of lack of access to medicines is financial and on this front the Government has notified National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, (NPPP) 2012 and Drug (Price Control) Order (DPCO) 2013 to control, regulate and monitor the prices of essential medicines. Government has also launched Jan Aushadhi Scheme to make available generic medicine at cheaper prices.