

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2763

ANSWERED ON:07.02.2014

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

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

- (a) whether the Planning Commission had constituted a High Level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage in the country;
- (b) if so, the recommendations made by the said Expert Group along with the follow up action taken/proposed by the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Government along with the States have worked out the financial modalities and operational guidelines for the implementation of the proposed Universal Health Coverage and the National Health Mission (NHM);
- (d) if so, the details thereof, scheme and State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide better medical services and treatment facility to the people?

Answer

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

(a): Yes.

(b): The recommendations of the High Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) are available in public domain at http://planningcommission.nic.in/reports/genrep/rep_uhc0812.pdf. Many of the major recommendations of HLEG on UHC have been suitably included in the Health Chapter of the Twelfth Five Year Plan for implementation.

(c) to (e): The Framework for implementation of National Health Mission (NHM) issued recently is in accord with the vision and key objectives of the 12th Plan to move towards Universal Health Coverage. Various initiatives in this direction include inter alia launching of National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) to cater to the primary healthcare needs of urban population particularly poor & vulnerable population; setting up of a Central Procurement Agency & strengthening State Corporations, National Health Mission Free Drugs Service Initiative etc. In light of HLEG recommendations, the 12th Plan seeks to significantly increase public expenditure on health. Public Health being a state subject, States are being supported to move towards the goal of Universal Health Coverage which include inter alia to strengthen District Hospitals and establish District Health Knowledge Institutes, strengthen primary healthcare, implement BSc in Community Health, provide for ASHA certification and roll out of UHC pilots.