GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2823
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2015
FREE GENERIC DRUGS
Adsul Shri Anandrao ;Chandumajra Shri Prem Singh;Chaudhary Shri C.R.;Kumar Shri Ashwini;Patil Shri Shivaji Adhalrao;Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne;Sivaprasad Dr. Naramalli;Vellaigounder Shri Elumalai;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

(a) the action plan drawn by the Government to distribute free life-saving and generic drugs to boost healthcare services in the country indicating the financial and operational modalities worked out for the purpose;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide all the drugs/drug formulations included in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) under the aforesaid scheme, and if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor indicating the drugs selected to be provided under the said plan; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure the quality, safety and standards of the aforesaid drugs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) to (c): Public Health being a state subject, it is for the States/UTs to draw up such action plans as per their need. Under the National Health Mission (NHM), financial support is provided to the States/UTs for strengthening their healthcare delivery system including support for provision of free drugs to those who access public health facilities based on the requirement posedby the States/UTs in their Programme Implmentation Plans. An incentive of upto 5% additional funding (over and above the normal allocation of the state) under the NHM is provided to those states that introduce free medicines scheme. Under the NHM-Free drug service Initiative substantial funding is available to States for provision of free drugs subject to States/UTs meeting certain specifide conditions. The number of free drugs provided by the States varies from State to State and most States have their own list of essential medicines.

(d): The steps taken by the Government to check Spurious/Sub-Standard Drugs in the country include:

(i) amending the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 by the Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008 to provide for more stringent penalties for manufacture and trade of spurious and adulterated drugs.

(ii) making provisions in the Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008 for setting up of Special designated courts for speedy disposal of cases to deal with the cases of offences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

(iii) isuance of guidelines for taking action on samples of drugs declared spurious or not of standard quality in the light of enhanced penalties under the Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008 on the Website of CDSCO for purpose of uniform implementation of Drugs and Cosmetics Act in the Country.

(iv) initiation of Whistle Blower Scheme to encourage vigilant Public Participation in the direction of Movement of spurious drugs in the country.

(v) providing assistance for upgrading of testing facilities and establishing new drug testing laboratories under the Capacity Building project through Wold Bank, so as to enhance the capacity of the laboratories to test large number of samples.

(vi) overseas inspection of drug manufacturing sites to ensure quality of imported bulk drugs.

(vii) amendment of Schedule M to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, pertaining to Good Manufacturing Practices in 2001 to make it at par with the international standards. It is mandatory for the manufacturers of drugs to comply with requirements of this schedule for quality control of the drugs manufactured by them.

(viii) Introduction of Good laboratory Practices