

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5117
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2015
HEALTH CESS AND NHP
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to impose health cess to fund the health care in the country and also proposes to make health as a fundamental right and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the total amount expected to be generated by imposing the said cess and the extent to which it is likely to meet the increasing fund requirement of health sector in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has finalised the: National Health Policy (NHP) and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether consultations with the consumers and various stakeholders have been made in this regard and their view points incorporated in the said policy and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the time by which the said policy is likely to be finalised by the Government?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): There are no proposals presently under consideration of the Government either for introduction of health cess to fund healthcare in the country or for making health as a fundamental right. Health cess is one of the options explored in the draft National Health Policy (NHP) for raising resources for the health sector. The draft National Health Policy 2015 has also flagged the issue of health as a fundamental right.

The draft National Health Policy, 2015 has been placed in public domain on 30th December, 2014 for eliciting feedback, comments and suggestions from the stakeholders including State Governments for further fine tuning the draft and to facilitate building consensus, in keeping with the spirit of cooperative federalism.