

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3072

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2015

Foreign Consultants

Nath Shri Chand;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Somaiya Dr. Kirit

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

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

- (a) whether a number of consultants who are on the pay role of external aid agencies are working with his Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the number of such consultants and the external aid agencies which pay for them;
- (c) whether such appointments are reported to have conflict of interest and other serious issues relating to country's security and sovereignty, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by his Ministry to strengthen its own technical capabilities and expertise to reduce dependency on foreign consultants/agencies on health related matters?

Answer

(a): Yes.

(b): A total of 81 consultants are working through the external agencies like Department for International Development (DFID), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and World Health Organisation (WHO).

(c): No. These consultants are engaged only for collection, monitoring and analysis of data and also to deal with the IT and monitoring of various Health Programmes. None of these consultants is engaged in work related to policy formation.

(d): Strengthening of the technical capabilities and expertise is a continuous process and the Department generally formulates the policies / programmes in consultation with the Directorate General of Health Services.