

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:70
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015
NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Reddy Shri Ch. Malla

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated new draft National Health Policy, 2015 and if so, the highlights of the draft policy;
- (b) whether the Government has held consultations with States and other stakeholders in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the proposed policy is reportedly silent on the issue of community action, if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to declare healthcare as a fundamental right of the citizens of the country and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 70 FOR 27TH FEBRUARY, 2015

a) Yes. The Government has formulated the Draft National Health Policy, 2015 in the light of the changes that have taken place in the country's health sector scenario since the formulation of the National Health Policy 2002. The Draft. National Health Policy, 2015 has been placed in public domain on 30th December, 2014 for wider stakeholder consultations.

Some of the highlights of the Draft National Health Policy. 2015 are:

The Draft National Health Policy, inter alia, proposes raising public health expenditure to 2.5 % of the GDP. Major source of Financing of Health Sector is envisaged to be general taxation.

It advocates a "Health In All" approach. It stresses on convergence with sectors such as nutrition, education, water and sanitation, agriculture, housing, labour etc.

It proposes free and universal access to primary care services provided by a network of public primary care health facilities, supplemented by strategic purchase of secondary and tertiary care services.

It proposes comprehensive primary care as an entitlement, and a health card for every family that links them to a primary care facility to be eligible for this package of services.

It proposes purchase of care from private hospitals to close critical gaps in public provisioning of services in the secondary care sector.

To increase the number of medical doctors and specialists/ the Draft National Health Policy proposes that Government invest in States with larger human resource deficits.

The Draft Policy proposes development of a cadre of mid-level care providers through B.Sc degree holders in community health. It suggests setting up of Centers of Excellence for Nursing and Allied Health Sciences in each State. To ensure quality of Medical Education, a common entrance exam on the pattern of NEET for UG entrance at All India level is also suggested.

b) The Draft National Health Policy 2015 has also been circulated to all the State Governments and Central Government Ministries concerned for comments and suggestions.

c) The Draft Policy has addressed the issue of community action. It proposes a Social Movement for Health. It supports Community Participation enabled through the Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees. The Draft. Policy also suggests increasing the horizontal accountability by providing a greater role and participation of local bodies and encouraging community monitoring and better vertical accountability through better monitoring, grievance redressal systems and programme evaluation. It envisages involvement of community-based organizations and representatives in decision-making in hospital development societies and

district consultative bodies.

d) The Government has not taken any decision to declare healthcare as a fundamental right of the citizens of the Country.