

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3224
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2014
PRESCRIPTION OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES
Mani Shri Jose K.

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

- (a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has enlisted certain drugs as essential medicines and laid down any guidelines and requirements in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken/proposed by the Government in compliance with the WHO guidelines and to ensure adequate availability of essential drugs to meet the health requirements of the general population of the country;
- (c) whether only a low number of medicines from the essential drugs list are reportedly prescribed by medical practitioners in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken/proposed by the Government to impress upon doctors working in private healthcare facilities to prescribe medicines from essential list of medicines as far as possible as per advice of WHO?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

- (a): The WHO published its first Model List of Essential Medicines in 1977. The guiding principle is to satisfy the priority health care needs of the population. As per the WHO guidelines, Committees of Experts are set up to review the latest scientific evidence on the efficacy, safety and cost effectiveness of medicines in order to revise and update the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for both adults and children. The WHO Model List of essential medicines is revised from time to time. The 18th WHO Model List of Essential Medicines was published in 2013. WHO also published 4th List of Essential Medicines for children in 2013.
- (b): National list of Essential Medicines (NLEM) of India was revised in 2011. The WHO model lists of Essential Medicines 2010 were taken into consideration while revising the NLEM.
- (c): The Government has no report about the low number of medicines being prescribed from the essential drugs list by medical practitioners in the country.
- (d): Does not arise.