

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1176  
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000  
WORLD DISASTER REPORT  
SURESH KURUP

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the World Disaster Report 2000 which stated that the cost of medical care in the country is emerging as the second commonest cause of rural indebtedness in recent years;
- (b) if so, whether according to the report the two third of the nation`s health care is in private hands; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rectify the situation?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

- (a)&(b)According to World Disaster Report - 2000 `Focus on public health`, in India,three-quarters of the nation`s health care is in private hands and the cost of medical care is emerging as the second commonest cause of rural indebtedness.
- (c): To meet the health care needs of the people, a comprehensive network of rural health infrastructure comprising 1,37,006 Sub-Centres, 23,179 Primary Health Centres, 2,913 Community Health Centres has been established throughout the country as on 31.12.1998 to provide preventive, promotive and curative health care in rural areas. Government has been making every effort to augment the resources for the health and family welfare sectors by mobilising external assistance from various bilateral and multilateral agencies for implementing the National programmes for AIDS, Malaria, T.B., Leprosy Blindness, Reproductive Child Health Programme. Besides, for upgrading the rural hospitals in selected States, World Bank assistance has been availed of which would further improve delivery of health services.