

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:933

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2005

STOPPING MEDICINE SUPPLY TO CGHS DISPENSARIES

Chandrapan Shri C.K.;Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that authorised chemists in Delhi have stopped supply of medicines to CGHS during the month of February, 2005 compelling the beneficiaries to purchase medicines and ask for reimbursement later ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not resolving the matter with them;

(d) the number of times medicines suppliers of CGHS dispensaries gone on strike or stopped supplying medicines to these dispensaries in the last two years ;

(e) whether the pensioners had to purchase medicines on their own ,dispensary-wise;

(f) if so, the number of medicine bills received by CGHS dispensaries during each strike;

(g) the number of bills not reimbursed as yet and the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the concerned Parliamentary Standing Committee have made any recommendation or observation in this regard in the last years; and

(i) if so, the reasons for not taking any action in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE ( SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)to(c): Adequate quantity of medicines is available in CGHS dispensaries. However, any drug prescribed by the specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiary from the Authorised local Chemist on the basis of individual prescription. In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorised local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries (including pensioner beneficiaries) are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

The reason for the strike cited by the authorized local chemists is late payment of their bills by the CGHS Directorate. Sometimes, due to paucity of funds near the end of the financial year, additional funds are sought for clearing the bills of the CGHS Authorised local chemists.

The Authorised local chemists under CGHS Delhi had stopped the supply of indented medicines during the period 17.2.2005 to 28.2.2005. The matter has been resolved and the Authorised local chemists have since resumed the supply of local purchase indent medicines with effect from 1.3.2005. During the period of stoppage of medicines by the Authorised Local Chemists, the CMO in-charges of the CGHS dispensaries were directed to allow the beneficiaries to purchase the non-available medicines in the dispensary from the open market and get the amount reimbursed from their respective offices in case of serving employees and from CGHS Dte. in case of the pensioner cardholders.

(d): Authorised local chemists of CGHS had gone on strike on four occasions in the last two years during the period:-

- i) 1.11.2002 to 15.1.2003
- ii) 1.3.2003 to 5.3.2003
- iii) 8.3.2004 to 4.4.2004
- iv) 17.2.2005 to 28.2.2005

(e)to(g): Yes, Sir. The Zone-wise information of medicine bills received by dispensaries under CGHS Delhi during the period when the

Authorised local chemists were on strike are as under:-

Year	Zone	No. of disp.	No. of bills
2003	Central Zone	20	527
2003	South Zone	29	7578
2003	North/East Zones	37	64172
2004	Central Zone	20	9454
2004	South Zone	29	14726
2004	North/East Zones	37	31409

All the above bills have been cleared by CGHS Delhi.

(h) & (i): Yes, Sir. In para 3.7 of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on HRD's 135th Report on the Demands for Grants 2003-2004 of the Department of Health, the Committee had observed that reimbursement of medical expenses incurred by the CGHS beneficiaries by their concerned office during the currency of the chemist's strike was an unprecedented situation and with their limited manpower, such offices were not geared up for disposing of ever increasing reimbursement cases expeditiously thus resulting in lot of inconvenience to the beneficiaries. The Committee also failed to understand as to why the Department didn't sort out the matter in the month of January 2002 itself when the chemists went on strike for the first time. The Committee felt that had the matter been settled early, the amount of sufferings that the CGHS employees underwent could have been easily avoided.

In this connection, it is stated that the bills of Authorised local chemists in respect of serving beneficiaries received up to 14th September, 2004 and the bills in respect of pensioner beneficiaries received up to 10th January, 2005 for pensioners have already been cleared by CGHS Delhi.