

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6877
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005
HEFTY MEDICAL BILL
Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that despite the existence of a public health system, 80 per cent of patients in India are resorting to private hospitals for major and minor ailments;
- (b) if so, whether the present system of health care forces the citizens to spend hefty amount;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether in the absence of health care rights of patients, people are being forced to move consumer protection forums and invoking penal code; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) to (c) Yes sir. Despite this vast network of Primary, Secondary and Tertiary health care infrastructure, patients approach private providers on account of easy accessibility and availability of doctors and medicines. Approaching the private practitioners puts a strain on personal finances and exposes patients many a time to avoidable risks. Additionally private sector healthcare is unregulated and may not always adhere to prescribed norms laid down.
- (d) to (e) Information is being collected.