

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:93
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
RURAL URBAN DIVIDE IN HEALTH CARE
Ramadass Prof. M

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

- (a) whether the rural-urban divide in the context of health is far more glaring today than at the time of independence ;
- (b) if so, whether involvement of private sector participation has accentuated the divide;
- (a) if so, the manner in which public participation in health care would be enhanced;
- (a) whether the Government proposes to implement the recommendations of the Bore Committee of 1943 to solve the present day health problems in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (c) The NHP-2002 recognizes that despite equitable regional distribution being one of the major objectives of centralised planning, attainment of health indices has been uneven across regions. Access to and benefits from public health system have also varied between States. It is to correct this situation, the NHP-2002 held as its main objective achieving an acceptable standard of good health amongst the population. This was achieved through increased access to decentralized public health system by strengthening new infrastructure in deficient areas and upgrading the infrastructure in existing institutions.

A further fillip to improve health access has been given with the launch of the National Rural Health Mission for a period of seven years (2005-2012). The main objective of the NRHM is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. It seeks to provide an overarching umbrella to the existing vertical schemes/ programmes of Health and Family Welfare including RCH-II, Vector Borne Disease Control Programmes, T.B., Leprosy, Blindness and Iodine Deficiency. It also aims to address the issue of health in the context of a sector wide approach encompassing sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, safe drinking water as basic determinants of good health. It further seeks to build greater ownership for Health & Family Welfare programmes among the community through involvement of Panchayat Raj institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders at national, state, district and sub-district levels.

The guiding principles of the Mission include:-

- Promote Equity, efficiency, quality and accountability in Public Health Systems
- Enhance People orientation and community based approaches
- Ensure Public Health Focus
- Recognize value of traditional knowledge base of communities
- Promote new innovations, method and process development
- Decentralize and involve local bodies

(d) to (f) Various steps have already been taken to supplement health infrastructure including medical practitioners and paramedical staff. Central Government also implements National Health Programmes as Centrally Sponsored Schemes aimed at disease control. These are programmes for control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Leprosy and AIDS. With a view removing regional imbalances and improving availability of tertiary care hospitals/medical colleges providing speciality/super speciality, AIIMS like institutions are envisaged in the under-served areas of the country. In the context of Health Insurance, Ministry of Finance has already implemented a Universal Health insurance Scheme exclusively for people living below poverty line.