

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2661
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2006
GUIDELINES FOR TELEMEDICINE
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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- (a) whether the Government has fixed any guidelines and standards to practice Telemedicine in India alongwith the framework recommended for an information technology infrastructure on health;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether these recommendations have been put on the website to initiate a public debate on the subject; and
- (d) if so, the response of the public in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) and (b): The Department of Information Technology (DIT) constituted a Committee of experts for recommending initiatives to be taken for standardization of digitized information to facilitate implementation of telemedicine systems. A Technical Working Group for Telemedicine Standardization under the auspices of the said committee prepared a document `Recommended Guidelines & Standards for Practice of Telemedicine in India`. This document recommends standards /specifications for Telemedicine systems, Telemedicine software, Communication systems, Security & Privacy issues, Data interchange standards for interoperability among different Telemedicine systems, Clinical devices and telemedicine Process Guidelines. System requirements for different classes and levels of Telemedicine systems have also been suggested.

The DIT also initiated a study to prepare a document `Proposed Framework for Information technology Infrastructure for Health (ITI) in India`. This study recommends standards for health information flow among the different stakeholders and covers Data elements, Health Identifiers, Clinical terminology, Minimum data sets, Billing formats for health insurance and Messaging standards. It also addresses to the aspects of Health informatics education and Legal framework to support privacy and confidentiality of health data.

In September 2005, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has constituted a Task Force on Telemedicine in India for formulation of strategies regarding its applications and implementation in Health Sector. The terms of reference of the Task Force, inter alia, include to work on inter-operability standards and to define standards and structures of electronic medical records and patient database.

(c) a n d (d) : T h e s e r e c o m m e n d a t i o n s h a v e b e e n p u t o n t h e D e p a r t m e n t o f I n f o r m a t i o n T e c h n o l o g y w e b s i t e (<http://www.mit.gov.in/telemedicine/home.asp>) f o r w i d e r d i s s e m i n a t i o n . M o r e t h a n 4 8 0 0 0 d o w n l o a d s f o r t h e d o c u m e n t ` R e c o m m e n d e d G u i d e l i n e s & S t a n d a r d s f o r P r a c t i c e o f T e l e m e d i c i n e i n I n d i a ` a n d m o r e t h a n 1 1 7 0 0 d o w n l o a d s f o r t h e d o c u m e n t ` P r o p o s e d F r a m e w o r k f o r I n f o r m a t i o n t e c h n o l o g y I n f r a s t r u c t u r e f o r H e a l t h (I T I) i n I n d i a ` h a v e a l r e a d y t a k e n p l a c e a s p e r t h e w e b s i t e a n a l y s i s r e p o r t .