

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:497
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2006
MEDICAL FACILITIES AND MEDICINES IN POLY-CLINICS
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Ex-servicemen poly-clinics set up so far by the Government in the country alongwith the number of beneficiaries;
- (b) whether there is any lack of medical facilities and medicines at these poly-clinics;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for streamlining the working of these ploy-clinics?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU)

(a) The Government has sanctioned a total of 227 Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) polyclinics to be set up by 31st March 2008. 222 ECHS polyclinics have already become operational. As on date, 3,12,233 ex-servicemen pensioners are members of the ECHS. Their authorised dependents also benefit from the scheme.

(b) to (d): The ECHS was introduced with effect from 1st August, 2003 and is in formative stage. The state of medical facilities and availability of medicines in most of the polyclinics is satisfactory. Under the scheme, a polyclinic, besides looking after minor ailments, is also a referral point for referring the patients for treatment of major and complicated diseases to empanelled hospitals and diagnostic centres. 519 such hospitals and diagnostic centres have so far been empanelled under the scheme.