

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2220

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007

EXPENDITURE ON HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

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

(a) whether the expenditure on healthcare facilities in India, both per capita and also as percentage to GDP, is lower than that of the developed countries;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the various steps taken by the Government to improve the healthcare facilities in the country, especially in rural areas ?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) According to the World Health Report 2006, expenditure on health as percentage of GDP in respect of India and select developed countries (as of 2003) is as given below::

S.No.	Country	Total Expenditure on Health as % of Gross Domestic Product	capita Expenditure on Health at Average Exchange Rate (US\$)
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1.	India	4.8	27
2.	USA	15.2	5711
3.	Germany	11.1	3204
4.	France	10.1	2981
5.	Canada	9.9	2669
6.	UK	8.0	2428

(c) Under the mandate of National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of UPA Government, health care is one the main thrust areas with the proposal to increase the Government expenditure in health sector from the current level of 0.9% of GDP to 2-3 % of GDP. In this context National Rural Health Mission

(NRHM) has been launched and became operational throughout the country from the financial year 2005-06, with special focus on 18 States. The mission inter-alia aims at providing accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities, especially to poor and vulnerable section of the population, bridging the gap in rural health care services through creation of cadre of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), improving hospital care through strengthening of public health infrastructure, rationalization of manpower deployment, decentralization of programme to district level and effective utilization of resources. The mission further seeks to build greater ownership of the programme among the community through involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGOs and other stake holders at national, state, district and sub-district levels.