

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:211
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2004
CONCESSIONS TO PRIVATE HOSPITALS
Patil Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb

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

- (a) whether lack of access to quality public health services and unregulated private health sector is hampering the health of Below Poverty Line (BPL) patients seeking treatment;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether concessions given to private hospitals for free treatment of poor would be withdrawn owing to non-fulfilment of conditions by the private hospitals;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is planning to nationalize the health sector for uniformity of health services to all sections of society;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a)to(g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 211 FOR 15TH DECEMBER, 2004

Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments to provide quality public health care services to all patients including those Below Poverty Line (BPL) according to the availability of resources and also to formulate guidelines for the allotment of land to private hospitals on concessional rates and to ensure that the conditions laid down at the time of allotment of land are fully adhered to.

However, the Government of India augments and supplements the efforts of the State Governments through its various National Health Programmes by providing commodity grants, assistance for infrastructure development etc. Also the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi provides financial assistance to patients, living Below Poverty Line, who are suffering from major life threatening diseases to receive medical treatment in Government Hospitals.

The Government of India is also in the process of formulating a Bill prescribing minimum standards and specifications for hospitals, nursing homes and other clinical establishments, to ensure quality health care services.

Presently, there is no proposal to nationalize the health sector for bringing in uniformity of health services to all sections of Society.