

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:977
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006
FREE OF COST MEDICINES TO POOR
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has announced to provide medicines to poor people free of cost;
- (b) if so, the modalities framed therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure quality standards of such medicines and the extent of expenditure proposed on such subsidy?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIOUE)

(a) to (c): The Government, based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharmaceuticals) and the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission, the Government have drafted a National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A), which has been circulated to various stakeholders seeking their comments. Based on the comments received the Government is likely to finalize the new Policy shortly.

Some of the salient recommendations of the National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A), which contains issues other than statutory price control pertaining to schemes for providing accessibility of drugs to the poor are:

- 1) Rashtriya Swasthya Bima yojana for the BPL families.
- 2) Larger allocation would be made for National Illness Assistance Fund.
- 3) State Illness Assistance Funds would be set up in all states with financial assistance from Central Government.
- 4) Revolving Funds for BPL families would be set up in all the Central Government hospitals.
- 5) States would also be asked to set up revolving funds in all the government hospitals for free treatment of BPL families.
- 6) in order to increase the reach of poor people to these funds District Level Revolving Fund would also be maintained The quantum of the District Level Revolving Fund would be Rs 1.00 crore and this amount would be provided by the Central Government.
- 7) Rajasthan modeL of Medicare Relief Societies to be replicated in all the states.