

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1045
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2004
STRIKE BY CGHS CHEMISTS
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the difficulties being faced by the CGHS beneficiaries particularly pensioners due to the frequent strikes by the CGHS approved chemists;
- (b) whether the beneficiaries are also directed to purchase medicines from the shops and apply for reimbursement which takes months together;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the reasons of the frequent strikes by the chemists and the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Adequate quantity of medicines are available in CGHS dispensaries. However, any drug prescribed by the specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiary from the Authorised local Chemist on the basis of individual prescription.

In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorised local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

The reimbursement of bills of Senior Citizens (CGHS pensioner cardholders) who have been permitted to purchase medicines from open market has been delegated by the Government to the respective Additional Directors/Joint Directors of CGHS for expediting the payment to the pensioners so that they are not inconvenienced.

(d): The reason for the strikes cited by the authorised local chemists is late payment of their bills by the CGHS Directorate.

In so far as payment of bills by the CGHS to the local chemist is concerned, the CGHS starts processing their bills after it is received in the office of Additional Director/Joint Director. After obtaining the necessary approvals, payment is made to the chemist subject to availability of funds. Sometimes, due to paucity of funds near the end of the financial year, additional funds are sought for clearing the bills of the CGHS authorised local chemists.