

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:199
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
DRUG SUPPLIERS STRIKE
Jai Prakash Shri

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the drug suppliers of CGHS dispensaries hold strikes due to non-payment on time by the Government for the drugs supplied by them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the annual amount allocated by the Government under this head for the last three years, year-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to increase this allocation in view of the hike in drug prices, continuous increase in the number of CGHS beneficiaries/dispensaries etc;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to remove inconvenience to the beneficiaries due to the strikes of the drug suppliers?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 199 FOR 16TH MARCH, 2005

Adequate quantity of medicines is 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 (including pensioner beneficiaries) are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

The Authorised local chemists under CGHS Delhi had stopped the supply of indented medicines during the period 17.2.2005 to 28.2.2005. The matter has been resolved and the Authorised local chemists have since resumed the supply of local purchase indent medicines with effect from 1.3.2005. During the period of stoppage of medicines by the Authorised Local Chemists, the CMO in-charges of the CGHS dispensaries were directed to permit the beneficiaries to purchase the non-available medicines in the dispensary from the open market and get the amount reimbursed from their respective offices in case of serving employees and from CGHS Directorate in case of the pensioner cardholders.

The Authorised local chemists of CGHS Delhi had gone on strike on four occasions in the last two years during the period:-

- i) 1.11.2002 to 15.1.2003
- ii) 1.3.2003 to 5.3.2003
- iii) 8.3.2004 to 4.4.2004
- iv) 17.2.2005 to 28.2.2005

The reason for the strike cited by the authorized local chemists is late payment of their bills by the CGHS Directorate. 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.

The allocation of funds during the last three years in respect of CGHS under the Sub-Head Supplies and Material from which payment is made to the Authorised Local Chemists is as under:-

Rupees in Crore

Financial Year	Non-Plan		Plan	
	BE Stage	RE Stage	BE Stage	RE Stage
2001-2002	117.50	160.88	4.15	5.80
2002-2003	118.50	178.25	6.18	6.86
2003-2004	126.50	212.77	7.34	10.68

From the above figures, it can be seen that during the last three years, there has been increase in the budget allocation for supply of local purchase indent medicines through the Authorised Local Chemists under CGHS.

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