

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b)
The Government of India is committed to ensuring access to quality health care on affordable basis to all citizens of the country. Towards this goal, the Government has operationalised National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) since April 2005. The NRHM seeks to undertake wide ranging reforms in public health system to ensure access to quality health services for poor and needy patients especially in the far flung rural areas. The NRHM envisages establishment of a fully functional, decentralized health delivery system with sharp focus on intra and inter-sector convergence for optimal utilization of resources. The NRHM is being implemented from 2005 to 2012.

NRHM provides overarching umbrella to existing National programmes of Health and Family Welfare including RCH-II, National Disease Control Programmes and Integrated disease Surveillance. Further, it addresses the issue of health in a sector-wide manner addressing sanitation and hygiene, nutrition and safe drinking water as basic determinants of good health.

The Government also provides direct financial assistance to patients who are living below poverty line and are suffering from major life threatening diseases. Under the Rastriya Arogya Nidhi, this assistance helps the patients receive medical treatment at any of the super specialty hospitals/institutions or other Government hospitals.

Availability of Cochlear implant surgery in Government hospitals

777. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cochlear implant surgery for the hearing impaired is available in Central Government sponsored hospitals;

(b) if so, the details of such hospitals; and

(c) if not, whether Government is contemplating to introduce the surgery in Government hospitals to enable the needy poor to have access to it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c)
As far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned, the cochlear implant surgery is available in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

The Cochlear Implant Surgery is also available at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

Non-availability of medicines

778. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many primary and sub-primary health centres medicines are not available all the time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;