

graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow to inter alia examine the validity of the scientific and statutory basis adopted for approval of new drugs without Phase-III clinical trials on Indian population. The Committee is yet to submit its Report.

Scheme for providing free generic medicines

†563. CHAUDHARY MUNABBAR SALEEM:

SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has any such scheme wherein generic medicines will be given free of cost in Government hospitals;
- (b) whether the Centre and the States will operate this scheme jointly;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) by when this scheme will get implemented and how many people will get benefited from it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Government proposes to start an initiative for free supply of essential medicines in public health facilities in the country aiming to provide affordable health care to the people by reducing out of pocket expenses on medicine.

This initiative will promote rational use of medicines and reduce the consumption of inessential, unscientific and hazardous medicines.

The initiative is based on the Tamil Nadu model where free medicines procured in bulk by the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC), in generic name, directly from the manufacturers is supplied through an IT enabled supply chain management system to the public.

States would be encouraged to set up TNMSC like institutions or use any existing institution with sufficient autonomy for bulk procurement of essential drugs in generic names directly from the manufacturers in generic names.

The drugs would be supplied by the district warehouses through an IT enabled supply chain management system.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.