

dispensary for medical consultation and medicines. The revised working hours will provide longer effective working hours for availing the facilities. They can access CGHS dispensary even during the lunch hours.

Free healthcare facilities to the poor

1659. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that availing healthcare facilities by the poor people in the country is very difficult;

(b) if so, the expenses for different surgeries and operations charged by Government hospitals in the country; and

(c) the firm steps Government will take to provide health facility to the poor free of cost?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Health is a State listed subject and it is the responsibility of the State government concerned to provide medical facilities to the people according to their need and priorities. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments to provide better health care facilities to the people by way of implementing various schemes such as NRHM. The Central Government also approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) in March 2006, which aims at correcting the imbalances in availability of affordable/reliable tertiary level health care in the country in general and augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the under-served States. This scheme, envisages setting up six institutions like the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), one each in the States of Bihar (Patna), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Odisha (Bhubaneswar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur), Chhattisgarh (Raipur) and Uttarakhand (Rishikesh); and upgradation of 19 existing medical institutions.

In so far as three Central Government Hospitals namely, Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and its associated hospitals are concerned, the treatment including surgeries are done free of cost for all patients irrespective of economic criteria. Medicines to admitted/indoor patients are provided from the hospital itself free of cost. In OPD medicines are provided free as per the approved hospital formulary. However, some nominal charges are levied for certain specialized tests which are also waived off for BPL/deserving patients by the competent authority in the hospital.