

in Lok Sabha on 18 March 2015, recommending, *inter alia*, to keep in abeyance implementation of the Rules till the Committee finalize the examination of the subject and arrive at appropriate conclusions and present an objective report in the House. Considering that the report of the Committee is interim in nature, the Ministry decided to keep the notification in abeyance. Accordingly, a corrigendum was issued on 26 March 2015 suspending the date of implementation and stating that the rules shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Stagnancy in allocation for health sector

1016. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) whether allocation for health sector during 2015-16 is stagnant and has not gone up from 1.2 per cent of GDP to 2 to 2.5 per cent as suggested in the draft National Health Policy;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether decision by Government to shelve the free drugs and diagnostics and spending cuts in major health schemes have ensured that 'Aachhe Din' in healthcare of Indians are still elusive; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, Schemewise and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) Public health expenditure in recent years has been hovering around 1.2 per cent of GDP. However, in absolute terms health expenditure in the country, by the Central and State Governments, has increased from ₹ 110228 crore in 2011-12 to ₹ 154567 crore in 2014-15, as per Economic Survey 2014-15.

The Draft National Health Policy 2015 proposes a potentially achievable target of raising public health expenditure to 2.5 per cent of GDP over a minimum of five year period, keeping in view the financial capacity of the country and the institutional capacity to utilize the increased funding in an effective manner.

(c) and (d) Public Health being a State subject, under the National Health Mission (NHM) support is being provided to the States/UTs for strengthening their healthcare delivery system including support for provision of free drugs and free diagnostics,

and also for strengthening warehouses, drug testing labs, procurement systems and capacities, quality assurance and IT infrastructure for improved logistics.

Further to encourage States to provide free essential drugs in public health facilities, upto 5 per cent funding over and above the normal allocation of the State is also provided as an incentive for those States that implement free medicines policy.

Ensuring safeguard of medical personnel from infections

†1017. SHRI P. L. PUNIA:

SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the personnel working in the field of medical are getting exposed to infection and diseases like Hapatitis, State-wise details thereof;

(b) whether steps are being taken by Government to safeguard medical personnel from various diseases; and

(c) whether Government is contemplating on formulating a necessary concrete policy to safeguard the medical personnel and their family members from getting exposed to infection and Hepatitis?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) Since the health care workers interface with patients suffering from various infectious diseases, exposure to infectious diseases cannot be ruled out. The State wise details of personnel in health care getting exposed to infection and diseases like Hepatitis are not collected centrally.

(b) and (c) Universal precautions for health care workers is a knowledge and skill taught in the Medical Colleges and Para-medical institutes.

The Government of India has also published the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) which the State Health Care Facilities are encouraged to follow.

In the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) Guidelines for Secondary Level Hospitals [Revised edition 2012] specific mention has been made for the guidelines for Health Care Workers Safety and recommended the following:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.