

Provision for spectacles, dentures and hearing aids under NRHM

138. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no provision in the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to provide spectacles, dentures and hearing aids etc. particularly to senior citizens in the rural areas; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to provide spectacles, dentures and hearing aids etc. free of cost to the senior citizens in the rural areas under NRHM and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) Public Health being a State subject, the primary responsibility to provide healthcare services is that of the respective State/UT Governments. However, under the National Health Mission (NHM), Government of India provides financial and technical support to States/UTs for strengthening of healthcare systems based on the requirements posed by the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs). The financial support could also be provided for spectacles, hearing aids etc. if the States so propose in their PIPs.

Failure of TB control programme in tribal areas

139. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the reaction of the Ministry to ICMR's study which indicated that TB Control Programme has failed in most of the tribal areas of the country;

(b) the details of other findings of the study; and

(c) the manner in which the Ministry is planning to revisit the Revised National TB Control Programme in tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) to (c) The study by National Institute for Research in Tribal Health, Jabalpur, undertaken through analysis of Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) data for 2010 to 2012 has stated that the overall RNTCP performance in tribal areas of the country was not optimal.

However, the study results itself indicate that the proportion of districts that had low smear positive case detection rate was almost similar in all categories (backward, tribal and others) during year 2010 and 2012; the cure rates observed

in tribal districts were better as compared with backward districts; the performance in terms of success rate was almost similar in all districts.

The overall treatment success rate among new smear positive cases registered under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) in tribal districts of India is almost similar to the National Average for years 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Districts implementing RNTCP in various States of India can be graded from low performing to high performing based on several indicators which are applicable for both tribal and non-tribal districts. Nevertheless, there are peculiar problems in tribal districts due to issues related to accessibility and socio-economic conditions.

Services under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) are available free of cost in all Districts. The Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme already has enhanced norms for tribal areas in that there is relaxation in population norm for setting up Designated Microscopy Centres and Tuberculosis Units as compared to the non-tribal areas. In addition, RNTCP has formulated a Tribal Action Plan to be implemented by the States through their National Health Mission Project Implementation Plan approval mechanism.

Shelving of free drugs and diagnostic schemes

140. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to shelve the free drugs and diagnostic scheme under the National Health Assurance Mission;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has made major cuts in major social sector programmes; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government's healthcare outlay is stagnant at around ₹ 33,000 crore and has not gone up from 1.2 per cent of GDP to 2-2.25 per cent of GDP as suggested in the draft National Health Policy, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) No Public Health being a State subject, the primary responsibility for providing good quality health services and infrastructure to the population lie with the State Governments. However, under the National Health Mission (NHM) financial support is provided to States to strengthen their health care system including for free essential drugs and free essential diagnostics, based on requirements posed by the States in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs). The Government has also released on 2nd July, 2015 detailed Operational Guidelines for