

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. No request from the State Government has been received for holding the Health Mela, so far, in the current year.

(c) As per existing guidelines a grant of Rs. 8.00 lakh is given to meet the expenditure on logistical arrangements, medicines and publicity etc. There is a budgetary provision of Rs. 2.7 crore in the current year.

Pending bills of senior citizens

138. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stopped direct purchase from local chemists; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to ensure that pending bills of senior citizens are settled at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. Adequate quantity of medicines is available in CGHS dispensaries. However, any drug prescribed by the Specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiaries from the Authorised local chemist on the basis of individual prescriptions.

In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorised local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

(b) The reimbursement of bills of senior citizens (CGHS pensioner cardholders) who have been permitted to purchase drug items from open market has been delegated by the Government to the respective Additional Directors/Joint Directors of CGHS for expediting the payment to the pensioners so that they are not inconvenienced.

Free Health Insurance

139. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: