

Difficulties faced by CGHS beneficiaries

555. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the C.G.H.S. beneficiaries especially the senior citizens face acute difficulties in the matter of issue of medicines, and getting direct appointment with specialists even when they are eligible for this under the rules; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in order to mitigate their difficulties and sufferings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Adequate quantity of medicines are available in CGHS dispensaries and there is no shortage. 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 case of emergency, authority slip is issued to the beneficiaries for immediate procurement directly from the Authorised local chemist without any payment, so that the beneficiaries are not inconvenienced.

The Medical Officers in CGHS dispensaries refer the beneficiaries including pensioners for getting consultation/opinion of the CGHS/ Government specialists at the Nodal centers of the respective CGHS dispensary/policlinic or at any of the Government hospitals. CGHS beneficiaries having a basic pay/basic pension of Rs. 12,000/- or above are allowed to have direct consultation with the Government specialists.

Supply of quality medicines in CGHS dispensaries

556. SHRI BALAWANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the medicines supplied in the CGHS dispensaries are of poor quality;

(b) whether it is also a fact that procedures for medicines to be indented in the CGHS dispensaries is time taking; and

(c) if so, the action proposed by Government to make the medicines available immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. The CGHS gets pre-tested drugs from its suppliers which are given to the CGHS beneficiaries through the dispensaries.

(b) Medicines not available in the dispensaries are indented with the authorised local chemist of CGHS and supplied to the beneficiaries on the second or third day.

(c) In emergency and for urgently required medicines, authority slips are issued by the CGHS dispensaries to the beneficiaries for immediate supply of medicines through the CGHS authorised local chemist.

Amendment in Drugs and Cosmetics Act

**557. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:**

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

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act on the basis of recommendations made by Mashelkar Committee;

(b) if so, the amendments proposed to be brought before Parliament by Government;

(c) in what manner Government propose to control the spurious drugs in the country through the proposed amendment; and

(d) how Government would ensure good clinical, laboratory and manufacturing practices in the country through the proposed amendment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2003 (Bill No. 93 of 2003) further to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 was introduced on December 22, 2003 in the 13th Session of Lok Sabha.