

Relaxing norms for setting up CGHS dispensaries

†1778. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the norms laid down for setting up CGHS dispensaries in the States;
- (b) whether any relaxation in norms would be granted in future by Government towards expanding the network of Central Government Health Services (CGHS);
- (c) if so, by when the relaxation would be granted; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) The criteria fixed for setting up a Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) dispensary in a particular area are as under:-

(i) In an existing CGHS city:- For opening of a new Allopathic CGHS dispensary in an existing CGHS city, there has to be a minimum of 2000 Card holders (serving employees of Central Government and Central Civil pensioners);

(ii) Extension of CGHS to a new City:- For extension of CGHS to a new city, there has to be a minimum of 6,000 Card holders.

(b) to (d) At present, there is no such proposal.

As the resources under CGHS, are fully committed, it is not possible at present to extend CGHS network to areas that are presently not covered even with the existing criteria.

Improving health services in rural areas

1779. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in most of the families in which farmers committed suicides, the largest component of family debt was cost of healthcare; and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government to improve quality of health services in rural areas, especially the ones facing severe drought conditions?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.