

Governments. Under National Health Mission to reduce out of pocket expenditure on healthcare, support is being provided to States/UTs for strengthening of their healthcare system based on the requirements posed by them in their programme implementation plans.

In this regard, the steps taken by the Government of India which *inter alia* includes:

- Implementation of National Health Mission Free Drugs and Free Diagnostic initiative to provide essential drugs and diagnostics free of cost in public health facilities.
- Implementation of Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK), Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram (RBSK), Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakaram (RKSK) and implementation of other National programmes like Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP), National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP), National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) etc. where free treatment is provided to patients of Tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS, Vector Borne, Leprosy diseases etc.
- Decision to transform Sub-Health Centres/PHCs to Health and Wellness Centres to provide comprehensive primary care, to undertake promotive and health promotion activities.
- Screening and Management of 5 common NCDs of hypertension, diabetes, and cancers of oral, cervix and breast.
- Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme for free dialysis services to the poor in district hospitals.
- Making available tertiary health care services in the public sector through strengthening of hospitals, establishment of AIIMS institutions in the States and upgradation of existing Government medical colleges across the country.
- Making available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all, under 'Jan Aushadhi Scheme', in collaboration with the State Governments.
- Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) which provides for smart card based cashless health insurance on family floater basis.

Dispersible TB drugs for children

2516. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the children diagnosed with tuberculosis are given pills meant for adults in lower doses by the doctors;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to introduce dispersible drugs for children according to their weight?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) to (c) No. Under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP), children are given Paediatric TB drugs in patient-wise boxes with product codes (PC-13, PC-14, PC-15 and PC-16). These drugs are distinct from the adult anti TB drugs.

The RNTCP has also introduced dispersible paediatric Fixed Dose Combination tablets in various weight bands in the five states (Maharashtra, Kerala, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim).

Modernization of Blood Banks

2517. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides financial and technical support for modernization of blood banks in the country, if so, the details thereof, along with criteria adopted for this purpose;

(b) the number of blood banks modernized along with grants provided to them during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) whether there are any unlicensed blood banks that have come to the notice of Government, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL): (a) Yes. Financial and technical support is provided for modernization of blood banks, training programmes, supportive supervision and grants for State Blood Transfusion Council as part of National AIDS Control Programme Phase-IV.

The criteria adopted for this purpose are:

- (i) Blood bank must have valid license/s for operations.
- (ii) Blood bank must be in the Government or NGO/Charitable Sector.
- (iii) Blood bank should agree to follow the policy guidelines of Government of India and National Blood Transfusion Council.
- (iv) Blood bank must be recommended by the State Blood Bank Core Assessment Committee after the prescribed inspection.