

12.00 Noon

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Increased spending from GDP on health services

*106. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact Government has decided to spend 15% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on health services in the country during the coming three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is also any proposal of increasing budget expenditure on health during each coming year to achieve the said target; and
- (d) if so, the details of such a proposal?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN):
(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) There is no such proposal to spend 15% of GDP on health services in the country during the coming three years. However, the National Health Policy, 2017 envisages increasing public health expenditure to 2.5% of GDP by 2025. The Policy also recommends that State Governments should spend more than 8% of their budgets on health by 2020.

In the budget for 2018-19, Government announced 4% Health and Education Cess in place of the 3% Education Cess on personal Income Tax and Corporation Tax, to cater to the education and health needs of poor and rural families.

In addition, the Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) has started supporting the infrastructure works of medical institutions.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Sir, it is said in the answer that by 2025 they are going to increase the expenditure to 2.5 per cent of the GDP. If you see the figures for the last three years, the allocations for the year 2015-16 is 1.1 per cent, for the year 2016-17 is 1.5 per cent and for 2017-18 is 1.4 per cent. My question is: When the allocations are reducing instead of increasing, how would you make it to 2.5 per cent of the GDP by 2020 or 2025?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, I wish to inform the hon. Member, through you, that I studied the expenditure during the last ten years. I am happy to inform you that by every

passing year, it is continuously improving. As I have said in the reply also that in the National Health Policy, published two years back, we have an intention of spending 2.5 per cent of the total GDP by 2025. As far as the States are concerned, we want them to spend 8 per cent of their GDP by 2020.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, the second supplementary question, please. The question has to be crisp and the reply also has to be crisper.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Sir, in addition, in the answer, the Government says that the Higher Education Funding Agency has started supporting the infrastructure works of medical institutions. What is the amount earmarked for that? Will the Higher Education Funding Agency help only the Government medical colleges or all the medical colleges in the country?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, in fact, to improve our spending, the Higher Education Funding Agency was earlier helping other institutions of the HRD Ministry, etc. But, since we have a very ambitious project, a number of AIIMS are coming up and a number of district hospitals are being converted into medical colleges. So, we have added this dimension also. A lot of fund is being generated through the Higher Education Funding Agency for the construction of various AIIMS and other hospitals in medical institutions.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN: Sir, through you, I wish to ask the Minister as to when the AIIMS in Tamil Nadu will start functioning. Is there any idea of constructing another AIIMS in Tamil Nadu as Tamil Nadu is the shelter for health services?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, there is no doubt that Tamil Nadu has got good health services. But, as far as AIIMS is concerned, I am not aware if there is a proposal of having another in Tamil Nadu.

As far as the latest progress of construction activities and this being dedicated for the patients, etc., is concerned, I can inform you a little later.

श्री राकेश सिन्हा: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से इस संबंध में एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ। नरेन्द्र मोदी जी की सरकार ने हेल्थ को प्राथमिकता दी है और इस पर जीडीपी का एक अच्छा एमाउंट खर्च भी किया जा रहा है, तो क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लोगों का हेल्थ प्रोफाइल तैयार किया जाएगा? जब तक ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के एक-एक ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: क्वेश्चन पूछिए।

श्री राकेश सिन्हा: सर, मेरा प्रश्न यही है कि क्या सरकार ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के लोगों का हेल्थ प्रोफाइल तैयार करने के लिए विचार कर रही है?

डा. हर्षवर्धन: महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदस्य को सूचित करना चाहता हूँ कि अभी National Health Mission के माध्यम से काम किया जा रहा है और National Rural Health Mission उसका एक बहुत important part है। स्वास्थ्य के जो विभिन्न पहलू हैं, बहुत सारे कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से उनके संदर्भ में देश के अंदर व्यापक चिंता हो रही है। अभी पिछले ही वर्ष अयुष्मान योजना प्रारम्भ की गई है। उसके दो components हैं, जिनमें से एक important component है, Health and Wellness Centers का creation. इसके अंतर्गत सारे देश में लगभग 1.5 लाख Health and Wellness Centers बनाए जाने हैं। ये Health and Wellness Centers सारे देशभर में होंगे और obviously गांवों में भी होंगे। Preventive, primitive and positive health के जितने भी aspects हैं, communicable diseases के साथ-साथ non-communicable diseases और health से जुड़ा हुआ जो भी विषय है, उसके अंदर social movement create करके, health education provide करके हम ग्रामीणों के लिए स्वास्थ्य की सुविधाओं को strengthen कर सकते हैं। अब तक लगभग 18,000 से 19,000 Health and Wellness Centers बनाए जा चुके हैं और 2022 तक सारे देश में हम 1.5 लाख Health and Wellness Centers बनाने वाले हैं।

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, yesterday was National Doctor's Day. I would like to wish belated Happy Doctor's Day to our respected Union Minister of Health, who is also a doctor. Sir, it is very unfortunate to remind you all that though India is the sixth largest economy in the world, yet we have seen that the budgetary allocation for health in our country was hardly 1.5 per cent or even less, and at the same time, we have also noticed that our hon. Minister hardly found 1.5 minutes to speak on budgetary allocation while giving his speech. Sir, my question is, in our State of West Bengal, we have seen that when our Chief Minister- cum- Health Minister...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, I am coming to the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: To come to Parliament from Assembly, it will take time!

DR. SANTANU SEN: In the State of West Bengal, we have seen that in our present Government, Madam Mamata Banerjee has brought the Budgetary allocation of ₹ 962 crores to nearly...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That means you have no question. Then I will go to Question No. 107.

DR. SANTANU SEN: She has increased up to ₹ 1400 crores Budgetary allocation in only seven years. Can she be the role model for the rest of the country, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 107. If anybody is going out of the way, then we will go to the other Member.