

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.272  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2021**

**AVAILABILITY OF MEDICINES AT AFFORDABLE PRICES**

**272 DR. V. SIVADASAN:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there are some diseases which require medicines that cost very huge amount of money, like the Zolgensma medicine for the Spinal Muscular Atrophy which costs around rupees 16 crores for one dose and
- (b) whether Government intends to provide these medicines at affordable prices for the ordinary people, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

- (a): Yes, the Government is aware of the fact that there are some diseases which require medicine that cost very huge amount of money, like the Zolgensma medicine for the Spinal Muscular Atrophy which costs around Rupees 16 crores for one dose;
- (b): The issue of the pricing of drugs does not pertain to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). However, National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021 has been issued by MoHFW on 30.03.2021. Certain provisions have been made therein to address the need of financial assistance to the patients suffering from rare diseases. The Policy can be accessed at website- <https://main.mohfw.gov.in/documents/policy>.