

**Bulk Of Health Ministry's Allocation For Subsidising Healthcare, Dewan Rakyat Told**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 2 (Bernama) -- It cost the government RM12.2 billion to provide healthcare and medical treatment for Malaysians from January till September this year, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said the amount was 98 per cent of the overall expenditure of his ministry for the period, which totalled RM12.44 bilion.

He said this when replying to a question from Datuk Mohamed Aziz (BN-Sri Gading).

Mohamed had asked Liow to state how much in subsidies the government had to shoulder in providing treatment and free medicine to the people since last year.

Liow said last last year, the ministry spent RM14.45 billion or 98 per cent of the RM14.76 billion allocated to it for the purpose.

He said revenue collected by the ministry last year amounted to RM311.2 million and that from January till September this year, revenue collection stood at RM238.5 million.

Liow also said that from January till Septmember this year, the ministry provided aid amounting to RM58 million through the Medical Assistance Fund to patients receiving treatment at the National Heart Institute and private haemodialysis centres.

The fund provided aid amounting to RM57 million last year.

On itemised billing, Liow said this would be expanded to all government hospitals next year.

Currently nine government hospital are practising itemised billing.

Liow said itemised billing would instill greater awareness among the people on the huge cost the government bore in providing subsidised health care.

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