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Title : Regarding CGHS facilities for serving employees/pensioners of Union Territories -laid.

**SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA (ANDAMAN and NICOBAR ISLANDS):** Government of India by an Office Memorandum dated 21st July, 2017 clarified that 'serving employees/pensioners of Union Territories are not entitled to CGHS facilities'. This decision was challenged before CAT, Ernakulam which directed continuation of CGHS facilities to the serving and retired employees of Union Territories. The said decision is under challenge due to which the serving employees/pensioners cannot avail CGHS services in Andaman & Nicobar Islands and other UTs. Due to absence of CGHS benefits, the serving and mostly the retired pensioners face difficulty in availing medical facilities. I request the Central Government to extend the benefits of CGHS scheme to serving and retired employees of Central Government residing in Andaman and Nicobar Islands along with other UTs by removing the distinction between Central Government and Union territory employees. Such a decision will benefit a large number of people and also be the right step during the corona pandemic which has resulted in health crisis.