

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding children affected with type-1 Diabets.

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY): Sir, through this submission, I want to bring to the notice of the august House the problems faced by the type-1 diabetic patients and the kidney patients. There are approximately 2,00,000 children in India living with type-1 diabetes. It is an auto-immune disorder characterized by insulin deficiency resulting from progressive destruction or damage of the insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas. High sugar condition or hyperglycaemia and low sugar condition or hypoglycaemia, both lead to further complications in the brain, kidney, heart, etc., of a type-1 diabetic child.

These children can live only with the help of life-saving devices and medications such as insulin, glucometer, glucometer strips, lab tests, etc., which are so expensive that even a moderate-income family cannot afford them. It is learnt that many countries consider type-1 diabetes a disability and provide special assistance to these children. This also ensures universal availability of insulin and sugar monitors to children with type-1 diabetes, and also in providing them with a suitable environment outside their homes. According to the statistics available with the Government of Kerala, there are about 2,000 children in my State of Kerala with diabetes.

Therefore, I urge the Government to include these children with type-1 diabetes in the disability category and also to provide reservation for all such children in areas of higher studies along with all possible assistance and relief for these children. Besides, it will be of immense help if the mothers of these children are given priority for daily-wage work under Government schemes as it will bring partial relief in their daily struggle to meet the huge expenses for medical treatment of their children. A similarly placed community in our society are persons with chronic kidney disease.

These patients have to undergo dialysis twice or even thrice in a week depending on the stage of the disease of each patient. The expense of dialysis varies depending on the number of dialysis required and it may be up to 30,000 each

month. A patient in stage 5 kidney disease may even require renal transplantation which costs Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh. These patients and their family members are facing severe mental pain. Therefore, I request the Government to include both type-1 diabetic patients and kidney patients in the disability category so that they will get other benefits.