

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding issues related to financial assistance and hospitals empanelment under PMNRF.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (VADAKARA): Sir, Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) in India is a fund raised to provide support to people affected by natural and man-made disasters. The Fund is also allotted to people for treatment of diseases like cancer, kidney transplantation, heart surgery etc. The financial assistance from the fund is highly inadequate.

Every Member of the Parliament is allowed to recommend 36 cases per year for financial assistance out of the PMNRF. It must be enhanced to 100 cases per year as the number of applicants is increasing every year.

Presently the financial assistance from the PMNRF is miserably delayed. It causes great difficulty to the hapless applicants. Many major hospitals are not yet empanelled under the PMNRF.

The maximum assistance sanctioned from the Fund is only three lakhs of rupees per head. It is meagre to meet the rocketing medical expenses in India. The right to health is indirectly mentioned in Article 21 of the Constitution, and this has to be read with many of the other provisions of the Indian Constitution. The right to health was first articulated by the World Health Organization that enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being.

Hence, I submit that the number of recommendations an MP can make must be hiked to 100 per year; maximum assistance from the Fund must be enhanced to five lakhs of rupees per applicant; delay in processing the application and technical issues regarding remittance to the hospitals must be ironed out; and more hospitals, like the MVR Cancer Centre at Kozhikode, must be empanelled under the PMNRF.

Thank you.