

Regarding Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)-laid

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Access to affordable healthcare is the basic right of all individuals of the country. However, attaining quality healthcare becomes difficult for those who are not economically well off. In the light of these problems, the Government had initiated the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) to provide a health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. Although the effort is commendable, the scheme has fallen short of achieving its objectives by a mile. Out of the target to cover 50 crore beneficiaries under the said scheme, only approximately 20 crore beneficiaries have been covered so far. This results in a high rate of out-of-pocket expenditure at 48.2% and also, no tentative timeline has been released by the Government as to when it intends to achieve the targeted number. It is imperative that the Government undertakes completion of the target at a war-footing so that the goal of universal quality healthcare can be achieved and out-of-pocket expenditure can be reduced.