

Regarding need to include OPD services and post-hospitalisation medication in Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY Scheme-Laid

SHRIMATI DAGGUBATI PURANDESWARI (RAJAHMUNDRY): I rise to bring before the Government a matter vital to the national goal of achieving universal healthcare, aligned with the foundational commitment of our Government towards Antyodaya. The dedicated Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY has become the worlds largest public health scheme, marking a monumental success by issuing over 42 crore Ayushman cards and enrolling over 86 lakh senior citizens in just seven years. This scheme, offering ₹5 lakhs per family, has made quality healthcare affordable for over 12 crore vulnerable families. While the scheme excels in secondary and tertiary inpatient care, the current exclusion of routine OPD services and limited post-hospitalization medication creates a significant financial burden on beneficiaries, hindering access continuity. This gap actively increases the necessary Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOP) for essential follow-up care. I urge the Union Government to implement an accelerated, phased action plan to expand the scope of the Ayushman Bharat scheme toward true universal coverage. The consolidated demand is to immediately integrate essential OPD services (starting with chronic and common ailments) and extend post-hospitalization medication coverage beyond the current 15-day limit, thereby ensuring continuity of care and drastically reducing out-of-pocket expenditure for our most vulnerable families.