

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2884
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
ECHS FACILITIES TO EX SERVICEMEN
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has introduced the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) in December, 2002 ;
- (b) if so, whether an ECHS member possessing a valid Smart Card can avail of treatment at any ECHS Polyclinic in India ;
- (c) if so, the details thereof ;
- (d) whether there are cases wherein treatment has been denied to a valid Smart Card holder at a town or clinic other than in the home town of the concerned person;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and reasons for denial of treatment;
- (f) whether the Government has carried out a review of the scheme; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU)

- (a) The Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme was sanctioned in December, 2002 and was introduced with effect from 1st April, 2003.
- (b)&(c): An ECHS member can avail treatment at any ECHS polyclinic in India. However the medicines are restricted to seven days on temporary visit to other stations. If a member requires treatment at other stations for longer duration, he needs to obtain a `temporary attachment certificate` from his parent polyclinic, which is valid for six months.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) & (g): Review of policies and procedures of the scheme is a continuous process. In the course of review, following reforms have been effected:-
 - (i) Exemption to war widows from payment of contribution;
 - (ii) Simplifying and revising the terms and conditions for contractual employment of medical/para-medical staff.
 - (iii) Provision of civil telephone with STD facility for smart card servers.
 - (iv) Entitlement of ECHS beneficiaries to general/semi-private/private ward facility in empanelled hospitals according to their rank structure.
 - (v) Exemption to war disabled pensioners from payment of contribution.