

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3358
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2014
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO POOR
Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government provides financial assistance for major surgeries and other treatment to the poor;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria fixed for providing such assistance;
- (c) the number of applications received and approved along with the amount distributed during each of the last three years and the current year, disease and State/ UT-wise including Maharashtra;
- (d) whether certain cases for the said assistance not being processed within the prescribed time-frame even after submitting all the required documents have come to the notice of the Government and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether the Government is considering expansion of this scheme and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a): Yes.

(b): The criterion for granting financial assistance to poor patients under Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG), Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi(RAN) and Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF) under RAN are as under:

i. Financial assistance is provided under HMDG to the poor patients with family income less than Rs.1,00,000/- annually and suffering from major illness and undergoing treatment in Government Hospitals/Institutions, to defray a part of the expenditure on hospitalization/treatment, in cases where free medical facilities are not available. Financial assistance limits are as:

a. Rs.50,000/- if the estimated cost of treatment is up to Rs. 1,00,000/- . b. Rs. 75,000/- if the estimated cost of treatment is above Rs. 1,00,000/- & up to Rs. 1,50,000/-; c. Rs.1,00,000/- if the estimated cost of treatment is above Rs.1,50,000/-.

ii. Under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) financial assistance is provided to the patients living Below Poverty Line (BPL), who are suffering from major life threatening disease to receive medical treatment in Government hospitals. The financial assistance to such patients is released in the form of 'one time grant' to the Medical Superintendent of the hospital in which the treatment is being received.

iii. Under the Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF) the criterion is as under:

(a) Financial assistance is provided to patients, below poverty line suffering from Cancer and undergoing treatment in any of the 27 Regional Cancer Centres.

(b) The financial assistance to the Cancer patient up to Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rs. One Lakh only) is processed by the Institute/Hospitals concerned through the revolving fund placed at their disposal. The cases of financial assistance above this limit are to be referred by the Hospitals for assistance from Central funds.

(c) The following criteria have been fixed for providing financial assistance to poor patients:

i. The applicant has to submit an application in the prescribed proforma duly filled in by the treating Doctor/HOD and countersigned by the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital (Government Hospital) where the patient is receiving the treatment, along with income certificate in original from the BDO/ Tehsildar/Collector /SDM. The details of family members in case of BPL applicants i.e. attested copy of ration card.

ii. The Directorate General of Health Services (Dte.GHS) technically appraises the proposal and thereafter, the approval of the Competent Authority is obtained for granting financial assistance to the eligible patient. A cheque of the admissible amount is issued to the hospital, who is required to submit utilization certificate to the Ministry.

(c): The details are given at Annexure I to III.

(d): No, applications complete in all respects along with requisite documents are processed within the prescribed time frame.

(e): No such proposal is under consideration.