

Title: Need to provide funds for Community Health Insurance Scheme in Andhra Pradesh - laid.

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA (MACHILIPATNAM): Government of Andhra Pradesh has been contemplating to introduce Community Health Insurance Scheme to provide health risk coverage and improve health status of poor households in the State. Government hospitals, though catering to primary health needs of people, are unable to provide professional care for treatment of major ailments like cancer, kidney failure, heart and neurological diseases, etc. So, Government of A.P. initiated a pilot project in May, 2004, to meet expenses for hospitals. So far, 40,500 such cases have been assisted with an amount of Rs. 114 crores. It is felt that this assistance could be institutionalized through the instrumentality of Community Health Insurance Scheme and for this purpose Arogya Sri Health Care Trust has been set up.

Government of India has launched NRHM to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to rural population, especially the vulnerable sections. Service guarantee to the poor households is the prime objective of NRHM and efforts are on at the national level to use the instrument of community health insurance to mitigate distress of households on account of high out of pocket expenditure.

Government of Andhra Pradesh formulated a health insurance scheme for below poverty line population and having gained experience, Government of Andhra Pradesh now propose to implement Health Insurance Scheme on pilot basis in 3 most backward districts of the State with the help of public-private partnership. The Scheme is going to be implemented from April, 2007. Hence, I request Government of India to approve Health Insurance Scheme for funding on a pilot basis under NRHM.