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Title: Need for financial assistance to 'Rajiv Aarogyasri' a Community Health Insurance Scheme implemented by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (GUNTUR): The Government of Andhra Pradesh has implemented a unique Community Health Insurance Scheme called 'Rajiv Aarogyasri'. It was started on a pilot basis in the backward districts of the State, namely, Mahaboobnagar, Ananthapur and Srikakulam from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2007 and now it has covered all the district of Andhra Pradesh.

The scheme extends financial protection up to a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs in a year to families living below poverty line for the treatment of serious ailments which require hospitalization and surgery. Its ambit covers almost 163 surgical procedures.

This scheme is under implementation and the entire expenditure is funded by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. The request of the State Government pertains to sharing of the expenditure in 70:30 ratio and to extend Central assistance. A request for clearance of the proposal and sanction of a sum of Rs. 300 crore is pending with the Government of India.

The Scheme needs the support of the Government of India. The State alone cannot cater to such a huge expenditure. Hence, I would request the Hon'ble Union Minister to extend financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 300 crore as sought by the Andhra Pradesh Government to make 'Rajiv Aarogyasri' a grand success, which is aimed at extending financial protection to children aged up to 12 years of the families living below poverty line in Andhra Pradesh. I would also request the Central Government to reimburse whatever has been spent by the State Government on this scheme so far, since the commencement of this scheme from 1 April, 2007.