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Title: Need to implement the Rajiv Arogya Sri Scheme.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (VIJAYAWADA): Sir, modern medical treatment which is the advancement in technology with rapid strides in diagnosis, is able to identify and treat any dreaded disease or any complicated ailments. But unfortunately Government hospitals do not neither have the facilities nor the equipment nor the specialist doctors. So, people have to depend on the private hospitals, corporate hospitals where all the facilities are there. They are spread across the length and breadth of the country. Unfortunately, the poor and downtrodden cannot meet the charges. They cannot bear the cost. So, the modern treatment is not available for the poorer sections of the people. We see, day in and day out, various ailments.

When I got elected in 2004 from Vijayawada parliamentary constituency, a lot of people used to come to me including children, old people, men and women with various ailments like heart diseases, uterus or intestine and so on. But unfortunately they could not get the treatment. They could not afford the charges. They used to feel helpless. At that time, and fortunately in Andhra Pradesh in 2007, the Congress Government in Andhra Pradesh came out with a policy called Rajiv Arogya Sri where every family in Andhra Pradesh, more than 90 per cent of the families were covered under that wherein they could get treatment in any corporate hospital, any private hospital or any Government hospital up to Rs.2 lakhs per year. So, the scheme like Rajiv Arogya Sri has got some sort of security and also safety for various families. This was an insurance scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please tell me as to what you want from the Government.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : This scheme would cost only Rs.2,000 crore per year in one State. What we want is that such schemes should be available throughout the country. It had cost Rs.2,000 crore to Andhra Pradesh and if we look to the whole of India, it might cost around Rs.24,000 crore. So, we want the Government of India to come out with such schemes. In fact, the Tamil Nadu Government, the Government of Maharashtra and the Government of Kerala also had implemented this scheme. But they had implemented it only partially. We want the Government of India to come out with this scheme in the entire country and share the burden. About 75 per cent of the insurance cost should be borne by the Central Government and the balance share by the State Governments. If we do that, there would be some safety and security of the crores of people especially of downtrodden and poor people. Health does not mean that only wealthy people should get the health treatment. Health treatment should be available across the board to every section of the people. So, through you, I would request the Government of India to seriously consider and bring out the health scheme called Rajiv Arogya Sri.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the matter raised by Shri L. Rajagopal.