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Title: Regarding simplification of referral system under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS).

SHRI B.N. CHANDRAPPA (CHITRADURGA): I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Health Minister towards the recent guidelines issued for simplification of referral system under CGHS.

CGHS provides medical facilities for consultation and treatment at their Wellness Centres and also under the empanelled private hospitals for their beneficiaries including the pensioners. As per the past practice, once a patient is referred by the Wellness Centre for getting the treatment at any of the empanelled private hospitals, he/she used to get treatment including the investigations etc. But, now, in the name of simplification, once a patient is referred by the Wellness Centre, he/she can go to the empanelled private hospital but he cannot get the investigations or treatment done without getting it endorsed once again by the Wellness Centre. This practice has actually put the patient including the pensioners to run from the hospital to the Wellness Centre for the purpose of endorsement. This practice is actually harming rather than helping the beneficiaries from getting the timely treatment as also the reimbursement.

I would, therefore, urge the Union Health Minister to kindly look into this matter urgently and help the ailing patients to get the treatment first rather than making them run for procedural things.

