

Registration and Clinical Test Fee

✶62. SHRIBRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN
 SINGH:
 SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA
 RAJE.

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to charge fees for registration and other clinical investigations in Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether several representations have been received against this decision,

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWARY) (a) to (e).
 A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(a) and (b) Government have recently introduced/rationalised fees for some selected costly and sophisticated tests/investigations in Central Government Hospitals. However, no fees for registration are being charged. The revised fees are much lower than the commercial rates charged by private hospitals. Government have introduced/revised fees with the ultimate objective of improving the quality of patient care by more rational use and better management of the facilities. Suitable provision has been kept for waiver of charges in case of poor and needy patients. The revised charges as compared to the rates of the private hospitals are given in the Annexure.

(c) and (d) A few representations have been received, demanding withdrawal/revocation of the Government order.

(e) It has been decided that General ward patients shall be charged only 50% of the revised rates and no charges shall be levied for patients in the Casualty.

ANNEXURE

Summary of Schedule of Charges

Name of the Test	Central Govt. Rate	Batra Hosptl.	Escorts	Sir Gangaram Hospital NH	GOPD
Untrasound	150/-	Upper ABD - 400 Lower ABD-350 Pregnancy- 350 Whole ABD 550	750/-	Upper ABD- 500 Lower ABD- 350 Pregnancy- 350 Whole ABD- 650	275 175 175 330
IVP (Test for kidney Ureter etc)	150/-	—	1050/-	—	—
BARIUM MEAL (G.I. TRACT)	150/-	800/-	1050/-	900/-	550/-
ECCHO Cardiography (Heart Function)	250/-	700/-	—	900/-	450/-
TMT (Stress test for heart)	150/-	850/-	900/-	1400/-	700/-
HOLTER (Ambulatory Mobile ECG)	250/-	1000/-	1200/-	800/-	400/-
Urodynamics Kidney Functions	500/-	400/-	—	375/-	190/-
Endoscopy Upper & Lower GI	100 /- each	Upper GI- 800 Lower GI- 800	—	—	—
Endoscopy, Bronchoscopy.	—	—	—	—	—

Name of the Test	Central Govt Rate	Batra Hosptl	Escorts	Sir Gangaram Hospital NH	Hospital GOPD
Cystoscopy (U Bladder)		(a) Colono 800 (b) Sigmoid 500 (c) Bronchoscopy 1400 Fiber optic) (d) Cystoscopy 800	—	—	—
Haemodialysis (Kidney)	500/-	300/-	—	400/-	400/-
EEG for Brain	200/-	400/-	—	350/-	125/-
LIPID Profile (Blood Test)	100/-	325/-	—	375/-	190/-
Elsa Test (TB/AIDS)	25/	—	—	—	—
Intravenous Urography (Test Kidney Urterile)	150/	1000/	—	1000	700
Micturating Cystourethrogram (Test for kidney ureter etc)	150	900	—	1000	700
RETROGRADE PYELOGRAPHY (Lower Urinary Tract)	150	800	—	1200	700

Name of the Test	Central Govt Rate	Batra Hosptl	Escorts	Sir Gangaram Hospital NH	Hospital GOPD
INFUSION PYELOGRAPHY (Lower Urinary Tract)	150	1250	—	—	—
NEPHROCYSTOGRAM (Lower Urinary Tract)	150	—	—	800	500
BARIUM SWALLOW (Upper GI Tract)	150	450	—	500	350
BARIUM MEAL (Upper GI Tract)	150	800	—	750	500
BARIUM MEAL (Follow through)	150	1000	1250	1500	950
BARIUM ENEMA for Rectum Colon & Intestine	150	800	1250	1000	650
ORAL CHOLECYSTOGRAPH (Gall Bladder)	150	900	—	700	450
INTRAVENOUS CHOLANGIOGRAPHY (Gall Bladder)	150	—	—	1500	950
HYSTEROGRAPHY (Uterus)	150	650	—	—	—
MYELOGRAPHY SPINAL CORD	150	1200	—	1800	400

Name of the Test	Central Govt Rate	Batra Hosptl	Escorts	Sir Gangaram Hospital NH	Hospital GOPD
T TUBE CHOLANGIOGRAPHY (Gall Bladder/Bile Duct)	150	800	—	700	450
VENOGRAPHY (veins)	150	—	—	1000	650
PERIPHERAL ARTERIOGRAPHY (Blood Vessels)	150	—	—	1000	650
SINOGRAM (Nose & Sinuses)	25	450	—	600	350
SIALOGRAPHY (salivary glands)	50	900	—	900	550
DACRO CYSTO RHINOGRAPHY (tear glands)	150	—	—	500	350
NURSING HOME Ordinary New N H	250	Single Room 700	Ordinary 1700	Ordinary	450
Delux Old N H	500	Double Room 390	Delux 2000	Delux	750
		VIP Suits 1250			

Please Note 1 — indicates facility not available

Name of the Test	Central Govt Rate	Batra Hosptl	Escorts	Sir Gangaram Hospital NH	GOPD
2 Rates effective from					
Central Government	1 6 1993				
Batra Hospital	1 7 1993				
Escorts Hospital	1 4 1993				
Sir Ganga Ram Hospital	1992				

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH
Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply the Minister has submitted that the powers to relax the fees to be charged from the poor and the needy persons have been given to the Superintendent. Recently, an ex-serviceman Shri Radhey Shayam Shukla tried to meet superintendent Mr. Rai to get some tests carried in Safdarjang Hospital. What I mean to say is that you have given the powers to give concessions in charges to the Superintendent. But you have provided powers through which he can give concessions to his relatives etc. through backdoors. I would like to know whether this backdoor arrangement would go on or the Government is trying to fix any norms for defining the term 'poor and needy'?

[*English*]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, we have authorised the Medical Superintendent of this Hospital to give relief to the poor patients who are coming to his hospital. There is a clear instruction to the medical Superintending. I do hon. Member has mentioned about one case but there are many cases where there are long waiting list. So for that reason—maybe I do not know exactly there may be the complaint. If the hon. Member passes that complaint on to us definitely we will examine that.

MR. SPEAKER: The question was whether you have decided about the criteria to decide who is poor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are a large number of patients every day, attending to the hospitals. There are about 150 tests which are done individually for all those things. The House may appreciate that out of 150 tests only 30 tests have been chosen for levying the charges as per our decision. The House may kindly appreciate that these tests are usually cornered by these people who can influence the hospital authori-

ties. And the hon. Member is right I do not disagree with him. But it is not always the case. We want to take money from those people who are able to pay and not from those who cannot pay. For this purpose who is the person who can decide as to who is poor and who is not poor? If we can see on the very face of the patients, it is very easy to decide whether he is poor or not poor so, it is not I, who can decide it. But, usually what happens is that the people who are related to the hospital employees, the people who are related to the officers, the people who are related to the higher ups are taking on these facilities. We want that these fellows should pay and not the poor. That is why we have done.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Even the richest person of my area does not appear to be affluent and looks like a labourer.

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the comparative statement presented by the hon. Minister is before me. Rates of clinical tests of Batra, Escorts and Sir Ganga Ram Hospitals have been compared with the charges of other government hospitals. Has the Government pondered over whether the farmers also go to Batra hospital? Even the farmers of to Batra and Escorts hospitals. I would like to know whether the interests of the slum dwellers, labourers and farmers have also been taken care of by the Government? I would like to submit not to compare with the financial/economic condition of the poor, farmers and labourers. I would like to know whether in view of the economic condition of these people the Government proposes to reduce the difference in the charges? It will be nice if this is done away with. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, again same sort of reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Who is affluent will be

decided and not who is poor. The hon. Minister has also stated that only the rich will be charged and not the poor.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I gather from the Mantri Ji that the question does not seem to be of great importance to him because he seems to be miring the reply in whole lot of contradictions. He definitely seems to be agreeing with us that very many poor people are not going to be able to get suvidha that he is talking about. But, at the same time, he is able to tell us clearly what he intends to do about it.

From my colleague's question, I would just like to follow up. The Minister in his answer that the revised fees are lower than the commercial rates charged by the private hospitals. In the schedule that he has presented to us, I would like to take up just two points. The kidney function test in a Government hospital is Rs. 500. In a non-Government hospital, it is Rs. 400. Haemodialysis in a Government hospital is Rs. 500. In a non-Government private-hospital, it is Rs. 300. I mean, there alone you can see the contradiction. I just want to ask him, how will the needy patient manage to get to the Medical Superintendent to get this suvidha? In this situation, why does not the Government delegate the powers of waiver to over-competent doctors in the various departments?

Also, has the Government taken into account the fact that by charging these clinical test fees, the Government doctors will be drawn into the net of the Consumer Protection Act? This will have terrible consequences because they will refuse to examine a number of patients which is normally done. There will also be a tendency to over-investigate the cases. In that situation, how will you protect the patients' interests?

I agree with my colleague completely. I think that tests of this sort, considering that they are going to have a bearing on the poor persons, need definitely to be cancelled. If you agree that

it is only the richer people and people with influence who have access, who are going to be able to get these tests done, what is the point in having the fees?

I suggest that you should stand up on the floor of the House and tell us that these fees will be cancelled so that the poor people will gain from this decision.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, first of all, I want to dispel the fear of the House as if all the tests are being charged from every patient. It is not so. About 75 to 80 per cent tests are made even today. (Interruptions) We have reviewed this. Whatever fee we are charging, we have reduced by 50 per cent. Recently, a decision has been taken on the representations made by various bodies. Fifty per cent charges will be for general ward patients whereas the special ward patients—usually who can pay—are in the special wards. (Interruptions) This is the reason that these tests are being charged. The hon. lady Member is correct that in two cases, the charges levied by us are very much above. We propose to reduce those charges.

The suggestion made by the hon. lady is that about the facilities to be provided, the waiver authority should be given to the heads of departments.

We will consider this suggestion.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, what about consumer protection then? Since you have agreed that the poor person

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I think this fear of yours has no basis.

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the rates are rationalised for investigations like Barium Meal, Oral Cholecystograph, Intra-venous Pylorography, Echo Cardiography, Ultrasonid and others. My question is if the patient comes as an accident case or an emer-

agency case or a medico-legal case will the Government treat that patient free of cost?

SHRIB SHANKARANAND We have already taken decision in this regard

[*Translation*]

DR G L KANAUIA Mr Speaker Sir I would like to subject to the hon Minister that for the last 37 years I have been observing that the poor are not being benefited by the scheme of waiving the fees For many a reason the poor are not getting the benefits Acquaintances of the workers and paramedical staff get all the benefits Therefore I would like to suggest that these benefits would be given on the basis of production of income certificate Though it is being claimed that registration fees are not being charged yet the factual position is otherwise I contradict this claim In Batra Escorts and other hospitals charges vary between Rs 1500 to Rs 2000 as has been shown in the statement and even the fees charged by the Central Government hospitals is not more than the fees charged by other private hospitals This list is not correct I would like to know whether the fee list shown is correct and if not the reasons therefor?

[*Translation*]

Bomb Blasts in Bombay

✱63 SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHALIA
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the number of persons arrested in connection with the bomb blasts in Bombay

(b) the number of cases registered and number of persons charge sheeted

(c) the number of persons released

(d) the number of alleged accused yet to be arrested

(e) whether the Government have ordered an inquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the incidents

(f) if so the details thereof

(g) if not the reasons therefor and

(h) the time by which the investigations are likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM LAL RAHIL) (a) to (h), A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

(a) 142

(b) 23 cases have been registered the charge sheets are yet to be filed

(c) 7 persons have been released on bail under Court orders

(d) 24

(e) to (g), A Task Force comprising senior officers of CBI and Central Intelligence Agencies has been set up to assist the ongoing investigations by Bombay Police The CBI shall take over the cases after the cases have been charge sheeted

(h) Maharashtra Government have reported that the investigations are likely to be completed by the third week of August 1993

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKH LIA Mr Speaker Sir it is a matter of grave concern that explosives and arms are being smuggled into the country on a large scale and infiltration of trained extremists from across the border is also taking place to destabilise the country