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Title: Regarding life saving devices used by Ostomy patients

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI): 90% of the medical life saving devices that ostomates require are imported, which leads to extremely high recurring costs, which ostomates bear as out-of-pocket expenditure. This condition is considered a legal disability in many developed nations. Considering that there are approximately 4 lakh ostomy patients in India, it seems necessary to consider their plight and amend requisite legislation in this regard. Additionally, it may be noted that the incontinence of urine and stools is included in a notification released by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. However, it specifies that only incontinence on account of neurological disorders and spinal cord injuries are covered under its ambit. I request that ostomy be added to both of the aforementioned categories. In this regard, the Ministry of Social Justice, Maharashtra had sent a positive letter to the Health Ministry, requesting it to study and recommend Ostomy as a disability. However, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment rejected this request citing that Ostomy is not a “disability” but instead a ”Medical Condition”. I urge the Ministry to hold stakeholder consultations with medical experts and Ostomy doctors and hospitals in order to further assess the gravity of this situation.

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