

Seventeenth Loksabha

pan>

Title: Regarding grant of additional amount to people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.

SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA (ANDAMAN and NICOBAR ISLANDS): The people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, due to its geographical location remain susceptible to public health problems. The pandemic has only made the situation worse. The GB Pant Hospital is the lone referral hospital to cater to the needs of the people of the island with an average OPD attendance of 1200 patients per day. Due to the lack of facilities, the islanders of Andaman & Nicobar have to often travel to the mainland to access health facilities, and in almost all cases they have to travel either with a family member or a relative for the purpose of caregiving, which ratchets up their total expenditure on healthcare, thereby burning a hole in their pockets. Given the very high traveling cost, the poor population of the island finds itself incapacitated to afford quality healthcare. Thus, I would request your kind intervention in the issue and help Andaman & Nicobar in increasing access to affordable healthcare for its people. I request that along with the Ayushman Bharat Health Benefit Cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year, an additional sum of money to cover the cost of transportation for the treatment be also provided under the scheme on the lines of ANISHI scheme which has been discontinued.