

Regarding need to increase quota for recommendation of MPs and enhancing the coverage of Ayushman Bharat Scheme for support of most vulnerable in our society

SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH (KANYAKUMARI): Hon. Chairperson, Madam, today, I stand before you to address the pressing issues that profoundly impact the lives of our nation's most vulnerable citizens. One is the recent reduction in the number of recommendations in the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund's (PMNRF) allocations for the Members of Parliament and the other is the limitations of the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

The PMNRF has been an indispensable resource for addressing urgent medical needs and providing critical assistance in emergencies. This fund has historically played a crucial role in saving lives by enabling timely interventions for those in dire circumstances. However, the recent reduction in the number of recommendations that can be made by a Member of Parliament per year has significantly undermined this vital role.

Additionally, while the Ayushman Bharat scheme, often referred to as the Ayushman Card, has been a laudable initiative aimed at providing health insurance coverage to the underprivileged, it has its own limitations. Such limitations are unacceptable when it comes to the healthcare needs of our poorest citizens whose very survival often depends on comprehensive financial support.

I urge the hon. Prime Minister to take immediate action to increase the quota for recommendations of the MPs to at least 150 per year. This increase will provide the MPs the ability to address more effectively the urgent needs of their constituents and ensure timely medical intervention for those in desperate situations.

I would also request the hon. Prime Minister to ensure full coverage under Ayushman Bharat. The Ayushman Bharat Scheme should be re-evaluated to eliminate restrictions on coverage and ensure that all the necessary medical expenses are fully covered.

Esteemed colleagues, our duty is to ensure that every citizen, especially the most vulnerable, has access to the care and support they need to thrive. By addressing the issues with both the PMNRF and the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, we can make a significant difference in the lives of those who rely on these critical resources. Let us work together to restore the full potential of the PMNRF and to enhance the Ayushman Bharat scheme so that it meets the immediate and comprehensive needs of all individuals in our society.

Thank you so much.