

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1046
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2010
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT
Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal

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

- (a) whether the Government extends financial assistance to the patients facing economic problems;
- (b) if so, the details of assistance extended during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether this financial assistance is extended only to those patients who get their treatment in the Government hospitals; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for not providing assistance to the patients who get their treatment in private hospitals?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

- (a) & (b) Government of India provides financial assistance to the poor patients under the following schemes: (i) Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)
- (ii) Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG).

Under RAN, financial assistance is provided to the patients living below poverty line, who are suffering from major life threatening diseases to receive medical treatment in Govt. hospitals. The financial assistance to such patients is released in the form of 'one time grant' to the Medical Superintendent of the hospital in which the treatment is being received.

Under the Scheme of RAN, the Central Government also provides Grant-in-aid to the States/Union Territories with legislature for the State Illness Assistance Funds set up by them to the extent of 50% of their contribution to the State Funds. The Union Territories (without legislature) are also given 100% grant under the Scheme to provide assistance to the eligible patients. Information regarding grants released to the States/UTs during the last three years i.e. 2007-08 to 2009-10 is annexed.

Under Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG), poor patients with family income less than Rs.75000/-annually and suffering from major illness and requiring one time treatment in Government hospitals/institutions are eligible for financial assistance, subject to maximum of Rs.50,000/- in individual case. The financial assistance is released to the concerned hospital/institute.

(c)&(d): In order to ensure accountability and cost effectiveness, financial assistance under RAN and HMDG is provided to patients receiving medical treatment in Government hospitals/institutes.