

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:733
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2011
RASHTRIYA AROGYA NIDHI SCHEME
Jakhar Shri Badri Ram

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

- (a) whether Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi has been set up for providing free medical facility to members of Below Poverty Line families in which a provision of 1 : 2 ratio of Central and State funding has been made;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the outstanding amount of the Government's share in Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi for Rajasthan and the time by which it is likely to be provided?

Answer

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

(a) &(b): Government of India has created Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) in 1997 to provide financial assistance to the patients, living below poverty line (BPL), who are suffering from major life threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment in Government hospitals. Under the scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi , the Central Government also provides Grant in Aid to the States / Union Territories with legislature for State Illness Assistance Funds set up by them to the extent of 50 % of their contribution to the State Funds.

The contribution of the Central Government to the State Fund is subject to a maximum of Rs.5.00 crore to States with larger number and percentage of population below the poverty line and maximum of Rs.2 crore to other States & UTs with legislatures, whichever is less in a year subject to overall availability of resources.

(c): An amount of Rs.1 crore was last released as central assistance to the Government of Rajasthan during 2007-08 under State Illness Assistance Fund. Further funds could not be released to the Government of Rajasthan as it has not fulfilled the following conditions stipulated under the guidelines of the scheme:

- (i) Lists of beneficiaries alongwith the amount sanctioned, hospital and the illness for which the funds were sanctioned are to be published in a leading State level newspaper for public knowledge.
- (ii) The funds are to be kept in a separate bank account in the name of State Illness Assistance Fund/Society.
- (iii) Beneficiaries under the scheme are to be patients belonging to Below Poverty Line(BPL) category only.