

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2619  
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2011  
HEALTH CARE PROGRAMME FOR OLDER PERSONS  
Ram Shri Purnmasi

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

- (a) whether the population of 60 plus age group in the country is about 100 million and out of which about 10 per cent population is bed ridden and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated any health care programme for the elder persons and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Safdarjang hospital has made any special arrangements for the indoor treatment of elder persons and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons for not allowing Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries who are above 70 years of age and are suffering from knee and respiratory related problems to take treatment in private hospitals of their choice;
- (e) the total number of CGHS beneficiaries who are above 70 years of age, State-wise; and
- (f) the estimate expenditure if they are allowed to take treatment in private hospitals of their choice?

**Answer**

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

- (a): As per projections, the number senior citizens (Population 60+ years) living in the country as on 1st March, 2011 estimated to be 98,470. However, no specific data is available on bed ridden elderly population.
- (b): Government of India has in the year 2010-11 initiated the National Programme for Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE) to improve health services for the elderly. It is envisaged to provide promotional, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services in an integrated manner for the elderly in various Government health facilities. Initially, the NPHCE is being implemented in 100 districts of 21 States during the remaining period of the 11th Five Year Plan.
- (c)&(d): As per Safdarjang Hospital, 12 beds have been identified in Medicine Ward and 4 beds in each wards for elder patients in the Hospital. Special Geriatric Clinic runs once a week attended by Specialist Doctor. Priority is given to registration of elderly patients at registration counter of OPD and doctors room.
- (e) & (f): Statement showing State wise details of the number of CGHS beneficiaries above 70 is annexed. Ailment wise details of elderly are not available. Hence, no estimates can be arrived at on the cost of treatment in private hospitals.