

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2711
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2011
RASHTRIYA AROGYA NIDHI
Meena Shri Raghuvir Singh;Singh Shri Dushyant

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has established Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi to provide free Medical facility for Below Poverty Line families;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the share of Centre and States therein;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to publish the list of its beneficiaries in leading newspapers;
- (d) if so, whether the Government will provide additional funds for it;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a): The 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, towards medical treatment in Government hospitals.

(b): 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) to (f): As per guidelines of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, the States/UTs having their own State Illness Assistance Fund are required to publish the list of beneficiaries in the leading newspaper at the state level for public knowledge. The grant-in-aid to the extent of 50% of the contributions made by the State /UT in the State Illness Assistance Fund is released by the Central Government.