

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3867

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2011

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR TREATMENT

Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Natarajan Shri P.R.;Patel Shri Devji;Patil Shri Sanjay Dina ;Sule Supriya

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

- (a) whether financial assistance from Health Minister's Discretionary Grants (HMDG) and National Illness Assistance Fund (NIAF) is provided to below poverty line (BPL) patient only;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria fixed alongwith the procedure followed;
- (c) the total number of BPL patients benefited and the number of patients who have sought financial assistance for major operation/treatment from the said discretionary grant and NIAF during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has taken note that the delay in the processing of cases within the prescribed time-frame even after submission of all the required documents; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to release the commitment letters for sanction of the grant well in time?

Answer

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

(a): Yes.

(b): The criterion for granting financial assistance to poor patients under Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG) and Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) i.e. National Illness Assistance Fund (NIAF) are as under:

(i) Poor patients with family income less than Rs.75,000/- annually and suffering from major illness and requiring one-time treatment in Government hospitals/institutions are eligible for financial assistance under HMDG. Financial assistance limits are - (a) Rs.20,000/- if the estimated cost of treatment is up to Rs. 50,000/- ; (b) Rs. 40,000/- if the estimated cost of treatment is above Rs. 50,000/- & up to Rs. 1,00,000/-; and (c) Rs.50,000/- if the estimated cost of treatment is above Rs.1,00,000/-.

(ii) Under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) financial assistance is provided to the patients living Below Poverty Line (BPL), who are suffering from major life threatening disease to receive medical treatment in Government 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.

(iii) The applicant has to submit an application in the prescribed proforma duly filled in by the treating Doctor/HOD and countersigned by the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital (Government Hospital) where the patient is receiving the treatment, alongwith income certificate in original from the BDO/ Tehsildar/Collector /SDM. The details of family members in case of BPL applicants i.e. attested copy of ration card.

The Directorate General of Health Services (Dte.GHS) technically appraises the proposal and thereafter, the approval of the Competent Authority is obtained for granting financial assistance to the eligible patient. A cheque of the admissible amount is issued to the hospital, who is required to submit utilization certificate to the Ministry.

(c) List of eligible applicants who have been benefited under HMDG and RAN during the last three years and current year, State/UT-wise is at Annexure-I and II respectively.

(d)&(e): On receipt of applications/documents complete in all respects, it takes about 3-4 weeks time to process the same and obtain approval of the competent authority under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi Scheme or Health Minister's Discretionary Grant to issue commitment letter.