

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1745

ANSWERED ON:23.03.2012

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MAJOR OPERATIONS TREATMENT

Bhujbal Shri Sameer ;Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

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

- (a) the criteria and procedure laid down for granting financial assistance to the poor patients to meet their medical expenses from Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG) and also under the Cancer Patient Fund;
- (b) the details of procedure alongwith their performas if any, for seeking financial assistance for major operation/various treatment including cancer from the HMDG;
- (c) the details of names of patients alongwith their addresses who have sought financial assistance for major operation/treatment from the HMDG during the last three years and current year, State/UTwise;
- (d) the total number of patients who received the assistance and the total amount released from the HMDG during the said years;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the applications for the said grant from the poor persons were not being processed within the prescribed time-frame even after submitting all the required documents; and
- (f) if so, the action taken by the Government to release the commitment letters for sanction of the grant well in time?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a)&(b): The criteria for granting assistance to poor people under Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG)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.

(ii) Financial assistance limits are as: (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/- .(c) Rs.50,000/- if the estimated cost of treatment is above Rs.1,00,000/-.

(iii) The applicant has to apply in the prescribed Performa duly filled in by the treating Doctor/HOD and countersigned by the Medical Superintendent of the Government Hospital where the patient is receiving the treatment, alongwith income certificate in original from the BDO/ Tehsildar/Collector /SDM concerned.

(iv) The Director General of Health Services (DGHS) technically appraises the proposal and thereafter, the approval of Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare is obtained for granting financial assistance to the eligible patient. A Commitment Letter is issued to the Hospital for intimating the date of operation/admission and copy is also endorsed to the patient/applicant. On receipt of reply from the Hospital, a cheque of the admissible amount is issued to the hospital, who has to submit utilization certificate to the Ministry.

Under the Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF) the criteria is as under:

(i) Financial assistance is provided to patients, below poverty line suffering from Cancer and undergoing treatment in Government hospitals and in any of the 27 Regional Cancer Centres.

(ii) The financial assistance to the Cancer Patient up to Rs.1,00,000/- (Rs. One lakh only) is processed by the Institute /Hospitals concerned through the revolving fund placed at their disposal. The cases of financial assistance above this limit are to be referred by the Hospitals for assistance from Central Funds. The proforma used for processing requests for financial assistance is at Annexure-I.

(c)&(d): The details are given at Annexure – II.

(e) & (f): No. After receiving the application in the prescribed proforma alongwith documents, it takes about three to four weeks time to issue commitment letters to the hospitals concerned and copy is also endorsed to the patients.