

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:422  
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2012  
FREE TREATMENT TO BPL PATIENTS  
Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Sule Supriya

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

- (a) the estimated number of below poverty line (BPL) patients in the country reportedly suffering from diabetes, mental disorders and other diseases in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has launched or proposed to launch any programme to provide free treatment/financial assistance to such patients living below poverty line;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the funds allocated, released and utilised for the purpose and the number of BPL patients benefited therefrom during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (c) : No such data is maintained by the Government.

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, to receive medical treatment in Govt. 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.

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 Fund 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 Illness Assistance 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.

The Illness Assistance Fund at the State/UT level releases financial assistance to patients in their respective States/UTs upto Rs.1.5 lakh in an individual case and forward all such cases to RAN, where the quantum of financial assistance exceeds Rs.1.5 lakh.

The Grant-in-Aid is provided to the State Governments from time to time upon fulfilment of certain conditions, viz., submission of utilisation certificates; list of beneficiaries indicating the illness and amount sanctioned in each case; Audit Report by the Accountant General of the State Government concerned, etc.

(d) The Statement showing funds released to State Illness Assistance Fund and number of beneficiaries is at Annexure.