

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6594  
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013  
FACILITIES TO MEDIA PERSONS  
Choudhry Smt. Shruti; Tagore Shri Manicka

**Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government had constituted a Journalist Welfare Fund, out of which Rs.90 lakh per year were spent towards helping scribes in case of any serious illness, accidents, disability or casualty occurring during their course of work;
- (b) if so, the details and the implementation status thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the present status of facilities/amenities being provided to media persons including Press Information Bureau (PIB) accredited media persons;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to extend/provide CGHS facilities to all media persons including PIB accredited media persons; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the number of media persons including PIB accredited media persons likely to be benefited under this scheme and the time by which such facility is likely to be provided?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI)

(a) & (b): The Government of India, in the year 2001, had constituted a 'Journalists Welfare Fund (JWF)' with a corpus of Rs.5.00 crores, for the purpose of providing one time ex-gratia relief of Rs.1.00 lakh on urgent basis to journalists/their families, accredited with PIB at the Headquarters of Government of India or Headquarters (Capitals) of State Governments, in the event of death or permanent disability. The ex-gratia relief @ Rs.1.00 lakh was given to 17 journalists/families during the period 2001 to 2010.

The Scheme was modified in the year 2010 to enhance the amount of ex-gratia relief to Rs.5.00 lakh in case of death or permanent disability. The modified Scheme also provides for ex-gratia relief to cover the cost of treatment upto Rs.3.00 lakh for major ailments and upto Rs.2.00 lakhs in cases of accidents causing serious injuries necessitating hospitalization. As per the modified scheme, the benefits under the scheme are also available to non-accredited journalists.

The Scheme has been further modified w.e.f. 1st February, 2013, and payments are made from the normal budgetary allocations, instead of the Corpus Fund. Ex-gratia relief @ Rs.5.00 lakhs has been given to three journalists/families under the modified Scheme.

(c) to (e) The journalists accredited at Government of India Headquarters are being provided various other facilities, like Railway Travel Concession, Government accommodation from Press Pool, financial assistance from Journalists Welfare Scheme and access to Government office buildings to collect news.

Central Government Health Scheme {CGHS} facilities are also provided to the PIB accredited media persons and their dependent family members. There are 805 cardholders and 1923 beneficiaries availing the CGHS facilities under this category. They are entitled to OPD facilities and medicines from CGHS dispensary and inpatient medical facilities at Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi. However, OPD treatment is not permitted in private empanelled hospitals. For indoor treatment, journalists can obtain treatment at any of the CGHS empanelled private hospital on the basis of CGHS card issued and the hospitals are to charge at CGHS rates for the facilities for which they are empanelled.

At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to extend CGHS facilities to all other media persons.