

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:161
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2013
ECHS POLYCLINICS
Azad Shri Kirti (Jha)

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) Polyclinics functioning in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether any service of the ECHS Polyclinics is being outsourced;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding irregularities in the functioning of the ECHS Polyclinics during the last three years;
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the action taken against the officials found guilty; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken / proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH) MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

- (a) The Government approved 426 ECHS Polyclinics in total. Out of these 356 ECHS Polyclinics are operational as on date. State-wise list of functional ECHS Polyclinics is at Annexure.
- (b) & (c): Yes, Madam. The On-line medical bill processing of empanelled hospitals has been outsourced to bill processing agency UTH-ITSL. ECHS has also entered into an agreement with M/s SITL for making the Smart Cards of ECHS beneficiaries.
- (d) to (f): A few complaints regarding delay in payment of private Hospitals bills, inadequate supply of certain medicines, inadequacy of manpower and discourteous behaviour of staff in ECHS Polyclinics have been received and directions were issued to Central Organisation, ECHS for taking corrective measures. Corrective measures taken / initiated include out-sourcing of On-line bill processing for speedy payment of empanelled hospital bills, enhancement of remuneration of contractual staff of ECHS, authorizing additional manpower to ECHS, augmenting supply of medicines in ECHS polyclinics and sensitizing staff to bring in attitudinal changes towards ECHS beneficiaries.