

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3616
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2009
MEDICAL FACILITY FOR BPL
Toppo Shri Joseph

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that people living Below Poverty Line (BPL) can not afford the medical treatment in metro cities;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has issued any guidelines or taken some steps to provide equal and good medical treatment to BPL families;
- (c) if so, whether Government proposes to take action against the private hospitals who deny the treatment to these families due to financial difficulties;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): No. The medical treatment being provided by upgraded Government Health Facilities is free of cost in the country including metro cities. However, to encourage private sector participation in provisioning of medical facilities to BPL population, under National Rural Health Mission through Public Private Partnership and also Health Insurance Scheme for Below Poverty Line [BPL] Families. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare subsidizes the cost of the annual premium up to 75%, subject to a maximum of Rs.300/- per BPL Family for this Scheme.

Further, Ministry of Labour launched the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana [RSBY] to cover unorganized sector BPL workers to improve access of BPL families to quality medical care for treatment of diseases involving hospitalization and surgery through an identified network of health care providers including private on cashless basis. The Scheme is implemented with maximum premium contribution of Rs.725 per family (75%:25% [Central: State share]). The beneficiary would pay Rs.30/- per annum as registration /renewal fee.