

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:920
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2015
National Health Entitlement Card
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh

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

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide a National Health Entitlement Card (NHEC) for every citizens of the country to ensure free essential healthcare facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the modalities worked out in this regard;
- (c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be operational;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to carry out free medical examination of children belonging to poor families; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(a): At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) & (c): Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d): Under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), support is being provided to States/UTs for free Child Health Screening and Early Intervention Services through early detection and early management of common health conditions classified into 4 Ds i.e. Defects at birth, Diseases, Deficiencies, Development delay including disability. Treatment including surgeries at tertiary level is free of cost under this initiative.

(e): The child health screening services are built on the existing school health services and are provided through dedicated Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) mobile health teams placed in every block. The block level dedicated mobile medical health teams comprise of four health personnel viz. two AYUSH doctors (One Male, One Female), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM)/ Staff Nurses (SN), and a Pharmacist. The teams conducts screening of all the children in the age group 0-6 years enrolled at Anganwadi centres atleast twice a year and screens all children enrolled in Government and Government aided school. The newborns are screened for birth defects in health facilities where deliveries take place and during the home visit by ASHA. An estimated 27 crore children in the age group of zero to eighteen years are expected to be covered in a phased manner.

Under the programme, District Early Intervention Centres are being made operational in all districts of the country for providing management of cases referred from the blocks and for linking these children with tertiary level health services in case surgical management is required.