

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:855
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2015
Health Insurance to Senior Citizens
Saraswati Shri Sumedhanand

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to implement any health insurance scheme for the senior citizens;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to fund money lying unclaimed in the provident fund for the said scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI JAYANT SINHA)

(a) to (d): It is a priority of the Government to work towards enabling social security protection for citizens, especially from the economically weaker and vulnerable sections. In accordance with this priority, the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Joyti Bima Yojna (PMJJBY), the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojna (APY) were recently launched to address the areas of life and accident risk, and old age income security. The Rashtriya Swastha Bima Yojana (RSBY) is also operational to provide health insurance cover to persons living below the poverty line etc. The Government would continue to work towards the furtherance of these objectives.

Further, the Public Sector General Insurance Companies (PSGICs) have specially designed policies for senior citizens at the entry level in the age bracket of 60 to 80 years namely "Varistha Bima Yojana" by National Insurance Company Ltd, "Health of Privileged Elderly (HOPE)" by The Oriental Insurance Company Ltd and "Senior Citizens Mediciam Policy" by the New India Assurance Company Ltd and United India Insurance Company Ltd. As in the case of regular Mediciam insurance policies, there is no age limit for renewals of these policies and can be continued throughout the life-time of the insured.

In Budget Announcement, 2015 Hon'ble Finance Minister had proposed the creation of a Senior Citizen Welfare Fund through use of certain unclaimed amounts under various specified schemes.

The Senior Citizens Welfare Fund Act has been passed along with the Finance Act, 2015. The scheme Rules for Senior Citizens Welfare Fund are under preparation.
