

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:602

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2015

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE PLAN

Lakhanpal Shri Raghav;Muddahanumegowda Shri S.P.

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to roll out universal healthcare plan and provide free drugs/diagnostic tests as well as insurance cover for the treatment of serious ailments for all its citizens, particularly those belonging to BPL families;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the estimated cost likely to be incurred for the purpose annually and the time by which the universal healthcare plan will be rolled out;

(c) whether the Government has also any proposal to provide health cards free of cost to all the citizens of the country, if so, the details thereof along with the modus-operandi likely to be adopted for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be done and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SAKHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 602 FOR 08.05.2015

(a)&(b): The Central Government is committed to assisting the States/UTs in the direction of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This is, however, to be carried out in a phased manner given the need for requisite infrastructure and adequate capacity in the States. Under the National Health Mission (NHM), support is being provided to States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare delivery system including for provision of free/affordable healthcare, free drugs and diagnostics to all those who access public health facilities. The primary healthcare needs of urban population particularly poor & vulnerable population have also been brought under the ambit of NHM with the launch of the National Urban Health Mission as its Sub Mission. In addition, under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) which has recently been transferred to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, cashless benefit upto Rs.30,000 per annum per family of five for specified hospitalisation procedures is available to all BPL population and eleven other categories of vulnerable population groups. As regards tertiary care, apart from 6 AIIMS which have been made operational, 9 AIIMS have been announced. Apart from this, 70 Medical Colleges/Institutions have been taken up for upgradation. Further, approval has been given to set up 17 new Medical Colleges and upgradation of 22 District Hospitals into Medical Colleges in the last one year towards universalization of tertiary care.

(c)&(d): RSBY operates through a card system. Provision of health cards to all would progress with the phased implementation of UHC.