

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:344
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2015
RASHTRIYA AROGYA NIDHI SCHEME
Bharathi Mohan Shri R.K.

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

- (a) whether the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) scheme is under implementation in the country and if so, the details thereof including the categories of treatment covered under the scheme;
- (b) the funds sanctioned, released and utilised thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, hospital/ State/UT-wise;
- (c) the number of persons benefited therefrom during the above said period, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) whether the funds allocated under the scheme is sufficient to provide financial assistance to the poor patients, if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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 SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 344 FOR 20TH MARCH, 2015

(a) Yes. The Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) has been set up vide Resolution No. F-7-2/96-Fin-II dated 13/1/1997 and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, as a Society. The RAN was set up to provide financial assistance to patients, living below poverty line and who are suffering from major life threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the Government hospitals. The financial assistance to such patients is released in the form of 'one-time grant', which is released to the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital in which the treatment has been/is being received.

The RAN is operationalized through four windows, detailed below;

- (i) Revolving Funds have been set up in 12 Central Government Hospitals/Institutions located all over India for providing financial assistance for treatment upto Rs. 2 lakh.
- (ii) Financial assistance is provided from RAN Headquarters for cases referred by Government hospitals/institutions, which do not have a Revolving Fund and for cases referred by 12 Government hospitals/institutions with Revolving Funds for assistance exceeding Rs. 2 lakh.
- (iii) State Illness Assistance Fund set up in all States/UTs (with Legislature) except Meghalaya and Nagaland, Grants-in-aid to States/UTs is released to the extent of 50% of the contributions made by the State Governments/UTs to the State Fund/Society subject to a maximum of Rs. 5 crore to States with larger number and percentage of population below poverty line viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and Rs. 2 crore to other States/UTs. Funds to the States/UTs are released on submission of utilization certificate and list of beneficiaries in respect of funds released to them earlier.
- (iv) Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF) within RAN which has been established as a separate Corpus Fund and is also managed by the Managing Committee and Technical Committee of RAN. An amount of Rs. 100.00 crore has been placed in the Corpus Fund and the earning from the Corpus Fund accrued out of interest is utilized for providing financial assistance to cancer patients through 27 Regional Cancer Centres (RCC) located all over India. Revolving Funds have been set up in these RCCs by placing an amount upto Rs. 50 lakh for providing financial assistance for treatment upto Rs. 2 lakh. Cases involving expenditure over and above Rs. 2 lakh, are referred to the Ministry. Funds to the RCCs are released on submission of utilization certificate and list of beneficiaries in respect of funds released to them earlier.
- (v) An illustrative list of categories of treatment to be provided from the Fund is given in the Annexure A.

(b) The details of funds sanctioned, released and utilised there under during each of the last three years and the current year, hospital/State/UT wise are given at Annexure-I

(c) The number of persons benefitted during the last three years and the current financial year, State/UT wise are at Annexure-II

(d) Expenditure provisioning for the Scheme is made in the annual Budget based, inter alia, on the estimates of releases made in the previous years and likely requirement in the ensuing year. Rs. 31.07 Crore has been provided under the RAN Scheme including State

Illness Assistance Fund and interest accrual in Revised Estimates 2014-15. An amount of Rs. 31.75 Crore has been provisioned in BE 2015-16 for Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi. The Budget provisions are reviewed at the RE stage based on the utilization of funds. It is a non-Plan assistance available to poor patients taking treatment in government hospitals/institutions for select life threatening diseases, to alleviate their financial distress due to health care expenditure. It is a window in the Government for extending a helping hand to those seeking assistance from Government in their hour of distress.