

Bill No. 76 of 2019

THE EXTENSION OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HEALTH SCHEME
TO EVERY DISTRICT HEADQUARTER BILL, 2019

By

DR. MANOJ RAJORIA, M.P.

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BILL

to provide for extension of Central Government Health Scheme facilities to every district headquarter in the country and linking the Central Government Health Scheme card to Aadhaar number and for matters connected therewith.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the Extension of Central Government Health Scheme to Every District Headquarter Act, 2019. Short title.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,— Definitions.

5 (a) "beneficiary" shall include the beneficiaries under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) as notified by Ministry of Health *vide* O.M. dated 1.5.1954 and as amended, from time to time;

10 (b) "CGHS" shall mean the Central Government Health Scheme as notified by Ministry of Health *vide* O.M. dated 1.5.1954 and as amended, from time to time for the healthcare benefits of beneficiaries; and

(c) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

Extension of
CGHS to
district
headquarters.

3. It shall be the responsibility of the Central Government to extend the benefits of the CGHS to all the district headquarters in the country in such manner as may be prescribed.

Central
Government
to empanel
Private
Hospitals or
Diagnostic
Centres.

4. The Central Government shall, in absence of any Government Hospital or CGHS Wellness Centre, may empanel such number of Private hospitals or diagnostic centres in the district headquarter, as it may deem appropriate for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Beneficiary to
avail CGHS
facilities
irrespective
of his place of
residence.

5. Every beneficiary irrespective of his place of permanent residence shall be entitled to avail the CGHS facilities in any of the CGHS wellness centres as per his entitlement and rules prescribed in this behalf by the Central Government.

CGHS card to
be linked with
the Aadhaar.

6. (1) For the purpose of availing medical facilities and reimbursement claims under this Act, the CGHS Card of the beneficiaries shall be linked with the Aadhaar number as defined under the (Aadhaar Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 in such manner as may be prescribed.

15 18 of 2016.

(2) The reimbursement claims shall be made to the bank account of the beneficiary or in case of his death or being in comatose state to the bank account of any dependent beneficiary with the consent of all other dependent beneficiaries in such manner as may be prescribed.

Power to
make rules.

7. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both the Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) is an ideal welfare measure available to all Central Government servants, their dependents and retired personnel, etc. in CGHS covered cities. In fact the scheme is most beneficial when one is advanced in age and ailing. As of now CGHS clinics/wellness centres are functioning only in the capital city of most States. Non-availability of CGHS clinics or branch offices in every district makes it impossible for beneficiaries to avail the facility. A retired or sick person cannot travel across the State in his sick condition to avail the medical facility or to claim reimbursement. His health condition may not permit such travel. Even after illness the person may not be able to afford the travel to present his bills and seek reimbursement.

It is also necessary to link CGHS cards to Aadhaar number so that beneficiaries may be assured of treatment according to their eligibility and reimbursement to their bank accounts when treatment becomes essential through private hospitals.

Hence, this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
June 12, 2019.

MANOJ RAJORIA

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for extension of the benefits of CGHS to all the district headquarters in the country. Clause 4 provides that the Central Government shall, in absence of any Government Hospital or CGHS Wellness Centre, may empanel such number of Private hospitals or diagnostic centres in the district headquarter, as may be necessary, for carrying out the purposes of this Act. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that a recurring expenditure of about rupees one thousand crore will be involved per annum from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees five hundred crore is also likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 7 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. As the rules will relate to the matters of detail only the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

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(Dr. Manoj Rajoria, M.P.)