

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 25TH FEBRUARY, 2011

Bill No. XC of 2010

THE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR PERSONS LIVING BELOW
POVERTY LINE BILL, 2010

A

BILL

to provide for health insurance for the benefit of persons living below poverty line and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-first Year of the Republic of India as follows:

1. (1) This Act may be called the Health Insurance for Persons Living Below Poverty Line Act, 2010.

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

(2) It shall extend to the whole of India.

5 (3) It shall come into force on such date as Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Definitions.	2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,— (a) “person living below poverty line” means any person, whose annual income from all sources is less than rupees fifty thousand; and (b) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act.	
Health Insurance Scheme.	3. The Central Government shall frame a health insurance scheme for persons living below poverty line.	5
Health card to persons living below poverty line.	4. (1) The Central Government shall, through the State Government or the Union Territory Administration, as the case may be, issue a health card to every citizen living below poverty line. (2) The health card shall contain the details such as name and age, address, details of family members, annual income and such other information of the citizen living below poverty line as may be prescribed.	10
Citizens to approach District Administration if card is not issued.	5. Any citizen, who is entitled to a health card but has not been issued the same, may approach the district administration, which shall, after necessary verification, issue the health card.	15
Right of health cardholders to get treatment from hospitals.	6. (1) Any person, who has been issued a health card, may approach any hospital, including a privately run hospital for treatment of self or any of his family members, whose name has been included in the health card. (2) The hospital shall make entries in the Health card regarding the total expenditure incurred by it in the treatment of the cardholder or his family and shall also provide the prescribed medicines free of cost. (3) The hospital shall not charge any fees from the cardholder for his treatment or any of his family members and send a copy of the detailed expenses to the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed.	20
Limit of Expenditure on the treatment of Cardholders.	7. The total expenditure on the treatment in respect of a health cardholder and his family members shall not exceed rupees twenty-five thousand per year: Provided that the cardholder may submit an application in the form as may be prescribed, to the Central Government for enhancing the limit in case of any critical illness and the Central Government may allow an enhanced expenditure for the treatment of a particular disease.	25
Hospitals not to refuse treatment to cardholders.	8. Subject to the provisions of section 7, no hospital shall refuse treatment to any cardholder, on the ground that the cardholder has not made any advance deposit with the hospital for treatment.	30
Penalty for violation.	9. If any hospital refuses to treat any cardholder or member of his family without any valid reason, the Central Government shall issue directions for cancellation of the license of the hospital.	35
Procedure for reimbursement.	10. The hospital shall make its claim for reimbursement of expenses in connection with treatment of a cardholder or a member of his family to the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed.	
Reimbursement to be made within a month.	11. The Central Government on receipt of a claim under section 10, shall process the same and reimburse the expenses within a month of receipt of the claim to the hospital concerned.	40
Life insurance of the cardholder.	12. (1) Every cardholder shall be insured for a sum of rupees twenty-five thousand. (2) The amount of insurance shall be paid to a nominee of the cardholder in case of his death.	45

(3) The premium for insurance of the cardholder shall be paid by the Central Government.

13. The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Act. Power to make rules.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Poor people cannot afford treatment in hospitals as it has become a costly affair. Huge crowds in Government Hospitals discourage elderly, physically challenged persons and women from taking treatment there. As a result, they are left uncared and unattended for want of medical treatment. Even in Government Hospitals, they have to spend money for purchasing medicines, etc.

India being a welfare State, care has to be taken by the Government for under-privileged sections of the society. It is proposed to provide that persons living below poverty line may be allowed to take treatment in hospitals including private hospitals and there is also a provision for their life insurance.

This, it is hoped, will mitigate the hardship of the poor people to some extent who die for want of the medical treatment.

Hence, this Bill.

AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for health insurance scheme for all persons living below poverty line. Clause 4 provides for issuance of health cards to all persons living below poverty line to enable them to take treatment in hospitals. Clause 11 provides for reimbursement of expenses by the Central Government to the Hospitals concerned. There is also a provision for life insurance of the cardholder under clause 12.

This Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is likely to involve a recurring expenditure of about rupees five thousand crore per annum.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees one thousand crore will also be involved for issuing health cards.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 13 of the Bill gives power to the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the provisions of the Bill.

As the rules will relate to matter of details only, the delegation of legislative power is of normal character.

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(Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri, M.P.)