GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 235
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH NOVEMBER, 2021

COVID-19 TREATMENT UNDER PM-JAY

235. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

(a) the total number of eligible beneficiaries of PM-Jan Arogya Yojana who contracted COVID-19 across the country;

(b) the total number of beneficiaries of the same who received free treatment or benefit from the scheme under some form in past two years;

(c) whether the percentage of total beneficiaries who availed scheme for COVID-19 treatment is higher for urban areas than rural areas;

(d) if so, the extent thereof and reason therefor;

(e) whether the cost of COVID-19 related treatments and drugs such as Remdesivir, Amphotericin B, Oxygen cylinders were covered for free treatment under the scheme; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(**DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR**)

(a) to (f): Public Health being a State subject, response to COVID-19 pandemic is primarily directed by State Governments. National Health Authority has been providing necessary support to States/UTs for ensuring free COVID-19 testing and treatment to all eligible beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

When COVID-19 pandemic started, initially existing treatment packages were used for providing COVID related treatment. Later, special packages for treatment and testing of COVID-19 were introduced. Many State Governments decided to make COVID-19 testing & treatment free for all residents. While some of them used Ayushman Bharat PMJAY ecosystem including the NHA's IT platform, others used their own IT systems. Therefore, COVID-19 treatments have been captured in both general and COVID-19 specific packages of AB-PMJAY.

In the past two years, approximately 8.3 Lakh hospital admissions have been authorized for the treatment of COVID-19 under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). This is with respect to transactions recorded on the NHA IT platform as well as the information shared by States, using their own IT systems.

Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country i.e. a beneficiary (rural/urban) can visit any empanelled public or private hospital in India to avail cashless treatment. Therefore, urban-rural bifurcation is not maintained for the beneficiaries, who have availed COVID-19 treatment under AB-PMJAY.

Under AB-PMJAY, treatment packages are bundled and cover all aspects of treatment such as drugs, medicines, oxygen, diagnostics specific to the disease which is treated under the scheme. Further, States/UTs have been provided flexibility to customize the packages as per local requirements especially for treatment of COVID-19.