

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2123
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20th March, 2023

**FACILITIES FOR EX-SERVICEMEN AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL IN
VISAKHAPATNAM**

2123 SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHA RAO:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) the healthcare allowances, scheme, facilities and benefits for ex-servicemen living in Visakhapatnam, the details thereof;
- (b) eligibility for healthcare expenses for ex-servicemen, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of ex-servicemen registered to get healthcare benefits from INS Kalyani Hospital in Visakhapatnam;
- (d) the healthcare allowances, scheme, facilities, benefits for presently serving civilian personnel in Eastern Naval Command;
- (e) the healthcare allowances, scheme, facilities, benefits for retired civilian personnel from Eastern Naval Command;
- (f) whether the Ministry is aware that there is inadequacy of CGHS wellness centres in Visakhapatnam; and
- (g) whether the Ministry will refer grievances of retired civilian employees to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for improved CGHS facilities?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a): The Ex-Servicemen (ESM) living in Visakhapatnam can avail the healthcare facilities under the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS). There are five ECHS Polyclinics located at Jagdalpur, Koraput, Kakinada, Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam under Regional Centre Visakhapatnam which provide quality medical care to ECHS beneficiaries. In addition, the primary ECHS beneficiaries of districts where no ECHS Polyclinic or Service medical facilities exist, may opt for Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA). While drawing FMA, such ECHS members and their dependents will also be entitled to 'In Patient' (IPD) facilities in Service/ Empanelled Hospitals.

(b): ECHS entitles all ESM drawing pension from Controller of Defence Accounts (CDA) including those in receipt of disability/ family pension and their dependents for ECHS membership. Besides these, following are also eligible for ECHS membership: -

- (i) Territorial Army (TA) Pensioners.
- (ii) Defence Security Corps (DSC) pensioners.
- (iii) Uniformed Indian Coast Guard (ICG) pensioners.
- (iv) Military Nursing Service (MNS) pensioners.
- (v) Special Frontier Force (SFF) pensioners.
- (vi) Nepal Domiciled Gorkha (NDG) pensioners.
- (vii) Whole Time NCC Officers of National Cadet Corps (NCC) who are ESM and in receipt of pension/disability/family pension.
- (viii) Eligible Army Postal Service (APS) pensioners who were existing 16/32Kb ECHS card holders prior to 17 November, 2016 and who finally retired directly from the APS without reversion to the Dept. of Posts.
- (ix) Assam Rifles pensioners.
- (x) World War-II Veterans, Short Service Commissioned Officers (SSCOs), Emergency Commissioned Officers (ECOs) & Pre Mature Retirees (ECHS facility extended only to the ESM and their spouses only).

(c): Approximately 42000 Ex-servicemen and their dependents are registered at ECHS Polyclinic situated within INHS Kalyani.

(d): (i) The presently serving civilian personnel of Indian Navy in Eastern Naval Command (ENC) are entitled to 'Cashless Medical Facility' at private hospitals empanelled under CGHS/CS(MA) Rules, 1944.

(ii) HQENC has concluded Memorandum of Agreement (MoAs) with 15 Private Recognized Hospitals for providing Cashless medical facility for Defence Civilian employees of ENC at Visakhapatnam.

(e): Retired Civilian Personnel from ENC can opt either for CGHS facility (or) Fixed Medical Allowance (as per their choice) at the time of their retirement.

(f) & (g): (i) HQENC has taken up a case with the Additional Director, CGHS, Hyderabad regarding inadequacy of CGHS wellness centres at Visakhapatnam. However, at present the Additional Director, CGHS, Hyderabad has intimated that there are two wellness centres functioning in Visakhapatnam and the residences in the radius of 5 Kms of each wellness centre are covered under CGHS.

(ii) Further, as per MoH&FW O.M. dated 06.04.2018, the Government servant has the option to migrate from CS (MA) Rules to CGHS, if required.
