

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2179
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08TH AUGUST, 2023**

HEALTH INSURANCE UNDER AYUSHMAN BHARAT SCHEME

2179. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

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

- (a) whether there is any monitoring system available to know the number of people with disabilities are availing health insurance under the Ayushman Bharat scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the question of disability is being dropped from the 6th National Family Health Survey (NFHS), if so, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(PROF. S. P. SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a) to (c): Categorization with respect to persons with disabilities is not available under Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). The selection of questions to be included in NFHS-6 questionnaire is based on recommendations of a Technical Advisory Committee and other high-level Committees comprising of representatives from concerned Central Ministries such as M/o Social Justice and Empowerment, M/o Statistics and Programme Implementation, M/o Women and Child Development, NITI Aayog etc., development partners and domain knowledge experts, constituted for smooth functioning of the survey. The Committees decided for non-inclusion of disability-related questions in NFHS-6 on the following grounds:

- (i) Most of the data related to disability are already available in the survey report of National Sample Survey (NSS) 76th round namely "Survey of Persons with Disabilities",

which was a dedicated survey conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) during July-December 2018 to collect detailed information on this specific aspect.

(ii) The primary focus of NFHS is maternal and child health and other associated questions. The dedicated survey of NSS, gives a better coverage of disability prevalence, having wider indicators on disability as compared to NFHS-5.

(iii) The multiple sources of information on one particular indicator creates confusion as the figures are often different.

(iv) Further, types of disability have several medical terminologies, which may result in inappropriate responses as the respondents might not be aware of the specific disabilities.
