

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1414
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH MARCH, 2025**

AYUSHMAN VAY VANDANA CARDS

1414. SHRI HARSH MAHAJAN:

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

- (a) whether there are any plans to expand the scope of the Ayushman Vay Vandana program to include additional healthcare benefits or services in the future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures put in place to ensure the benefits of Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards reach the most vulnerable section of the population, particularly in Rural and underdeveloped areas of Himachal Pradesh?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) and (b): On 29.10.2024, the Government of India expanded Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana to provide free treatment benefits of up to ₹5 lakh per year to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status through Ayushman Vay Vandana cards. Further, in the latest national master of the Health Benefit Package (HBP), the scheme provides cashless healthcare services related to 1961 procedures across 27 medical specialties including General Medicine, General Surgery, Orthopaedics, Cardiology, Oncology etc. which can be availed by different age groups. Further, States have been provided flexibility to further customize the Health Benefit Packages to local context.

Under AB-PMJAY, regular updation such as inclusion of new procedures, empanelment of new hospitals, inclusion of new beneficiaries and other improvements are done as per requirements from time to time.

(c): Under AB-PMJAY, the beneficiaries of Ayushman Vay Vandana cards are eligible to avail the benefits of the scheme through a network of over 30,201 hospitals across the country including 286 hospitals in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

AB-PMJAY has a comprehensive media and outreach strategy to spread awareness and empower beneficiaries for their rights and entitlements more prominently in rural and underdeveloped

areas. This includes advertisement over traditional media platforms including newspapers, community radio, street plays, digital displays, radio campaigns, mass messaging and telecast of beneficiary testimonials via Doordarshan etc. In addition to this, State Health Agencies have also engaged the wide network of frontline workers i.e., ASHAs, AWWs and VLEs (Village Level Entrepreneurs) who are pivotal in creating mass awareness at the grassroot level. In addition to this, the Ayushman Vay Vandana card beneficiaries may give a missed call to helpline number 1800-110-770 or call to 24x7 call centre (14555) for any assistance/queries.

Further, the government has issued directions to the States to undertake extensive IEC activities to raise the awareness about the expansion of AB-PMJAY for all senior citizens of the age 70 years and above.
