

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2644
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2026**

**REGULATION OF PRIVATE HOSPITALS AND PROTECTION OF PATIENTS
FROM EXPLOITATION**

2644. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether private hospitals charge patients excessive amounts for consultations, diagnostic tests, procedures, room rent, consumables and other medical services, if so, the measures Government has taken to regulate such practices and protect patients from financial exploitation;
- (b) the mechanisms in place to ensure transparency in hospital billing, prevent overcharging and ensure that patients receive itemised bills along with justification for medical procedures and investigations conducted during treatment; and
- (c) the number of complaints received against private hospitals during the last five years and the actions taken in such cases?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (c): '*Health*' being a State subject, the primary responsibility to ensure transparency in hospital billing, prevent overcharging and to address the complaints against private hospitals lies with the respective States/UTs. Hence, complaints against private hospitals, as and when received, are forwarded to the concerned States/UTs for taking appropriate action. Data and details, in this regard, are not maintained centrally.

Nonetheless, the Government of India enacted the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 (CE Act) and notified the Clinical Establishments (Central Government) Rules, 2012 amended in 2018 and 2020 (CE Rules) to provide for registration and regulation of Government (except those of Armed Forces) as well as private clinical establishments belonging to recognized systems of medicine. As per CE Act, the clinical establishments are required to fulfill the conditions of minimum standards for each type of service provided. The CE Act is adopted by 19 States/UTs (12 States, viz., Arunachal Pradesh,

Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana, Uttarakhand & Uttar Pradesh and 7 UTs, viz., Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Lakshadweep & Puducherry). For registration of clinical establishments, the CE Rules, *inter-alia*, stipulates the following:

- (i) every clinical establishment shall display the rates charged for each type of service provided and facilities available, for the benefit of the patients at a conspicuous place in the local as well as in English language.
- (ii) the clinical establishments shall charge the rates for each type of procedures and services within the range of rates determined and issues by the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments. In this connection, the Central Government has held multiple consultations with the States/UTs. The matter is, at present, *sub-judice* in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- (iii) The clinical establishments shall ensure compliance of the Standard Treatment Guidelines.

'Health' being a State subject, the States / UTs which have adopted the CE Act are primarily responsible for enforcing/implementing the provisions of the CE Act in the respective States/UTs. The Act has empowered a registering authority at the district level under the chairmanship of the District Collector / District Magistrate to take actions including imposing penalties in respect of violation of its provisions. The Act also provides for cancellation of registration, if the provisions of the Act are not complied with. The clinical establishments in the States/UTs, which have not adopted and implemented the CE Act, are registered and regulated by the respective State Acts.
