

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4844  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2017**

**FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT TO SENIOR CITIZENS**

**4844. SHRI P. KUMAR:**

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

- (a) whether senior citizens in developed and many developing countries are provided free medical treatment including medicines and hospitalisation and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to provide free medical treatment with medicines and hospitalisation to senior citizens in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a): As per the unverified information available in public domain, many developed and developing countries have been providing either free medical treatment including medicines and hospitalisation or on subsidised cost, to their senior citizens. However, specific details of such schemes/policies are not available with this Ministry.

(b) & (c): The Government of India had launched National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) during 2010-11 with a view to provide separate and specialized comprehensive health care facilities to senior citizens at various levels of state health care delivery system including outreach services. The health care facilities, being provided under this programme, are either free or highly subsidised.

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The major activities of the NPHCE are:-

- i) Setting up of Geriatric department in identified Regional Geriatric Centres (RGCs) with OPD care services and 30 bedded Geriatric ward for providing indoor services. RGCs will also undertake PG Courses in Geriatric for developing Human Resource
- ii) Setting up of 10 bedded Geriatric units at all District Hospitals that will provide indoor services for elderly during hospitalisation.
- iii) Establishment of Rehabilitation unit at all Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Geriatric clinic twice/week.
- iv) Setting up weekly Geriatric clinic by trained medical Officer at Primary Health Centres (PHCs).

Apart from this, Government of India is implementing Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS) for Senior Citizens of age 60 years and above, belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) and 11 other defined designated categories such as MGNREGA Workers, Construction Workers, Mine Workers, Licensed Railway Porters, Street Vendors, Beedi Workers, Rickshaw Pullers, Rag Pickers and Auto/ Taxi drivers with effect from 01.04.2016, as a top up scheme of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY). The health coverage is upto Rs. 30,000/--per annum per senior citizen for treatment packages, over and above RSBY entitlement.

It is further added that Public Health is a State subject. Under the National Health Mission, support is provided to States/UTs for provision of drugs free of cost to all those who access public health facilities including the elderly population.

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