

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 113  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2017**

**UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE**

**113. ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR:  
SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:**

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

- (a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) is keen that India should have Universal Health Coverage;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to launch a scheme titled National Health Protection Scheme, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has noticed that the Government of Karnataka has proposed to amend the law governing private medical establishments to provide universal health coverage in the State;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response thereto; and
- (e) whether the Government is taking any measure to implement universal health access in the country?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

- (a): In the UN General Assembly 67<sup>th</sup> session held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2012, one of the resolutions adopted calls for strengthening collaboration among member States, in particular through the World Health Organisation (WHO) through technical assistance and sharing of best practices as well as working with partners, to promote effective implementation of Universal Health Coverage.
- (b): The Government has proposed to launch a new health protection scheme which will provide health cover up to Rupees One Lakh per family belonging to poor and economically weak families. The contours of the scheme are yet to be finalized.
- (c) & (d): As per information received from Government of Karnataka, the Karnataka State Legislature has passed the Karnataka Bill 2017 Private Establishment (Amendment) to amend the existing Act, 2007. The following are the objects and reasons of the (Amendment Bill) 2017.
  - i. reconstitute the Registration and Grievance Redressal Authority;
  - ii. enhance transparency in display of rates by private medical establishments;

- iii. empower the State Government to fix uniform rates for treatment and procedures under health assurance schemes of the Government;
- iv. specify the Patient's Charter and Private Medical Establishment's Charter in the schedule to the Private Medical Establishments Act;
- v. provide for levy of monetary penalty in case on non-compliance to the Patient's Charter or Private Medical Establishment's Charter;
- vi. remove imprisonment provisions in case of violation of section 12 and 13;
- vii. provide emergency treatment as per the need without insisting on payment of advance from patient or representative of patient in specified cases;
- viii. hand over body of the deceased patient to his representative without insisting on prior payment of the dues;
- ix. enhance certain monetary penalties leviable under section 19; and
- x. Certain other amendments incidentals or consequential are also made.

(e): Public health and Hospitals is a state subject.

Under the National Health Mission (NHM), the Central Government is supporting States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare systems for provision of accessible, equitable, affordable and quality healthcare to all the citizens. This support includes support for provision of a host of free services including for maternal health, child health, adolescent health, family planning, universal immunisation programme, and for major diseases such as Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, vector borne diseases such as Malaria, Dengue and Kala Azar, Leprosy etc. Other major initiatives for which states are being supported include Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Rashtriya Bal SwasthyaKaryakram (RBSK), Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), implementation of NHM Free Drugs and Free Diagnostics Service Initiatives, PM National Dialysis Programme, free patient emergency transport and implementation of National Quality Assurance Framework. The government has also rolled out universal screening for women and men aged 30 years and above for common Non Communicable diseases – Hypertension, Diabetes, and Cancer of the breast, cervix and oral. In the direction of universal health coverage, the Government has given approval to States for strengthening over 3800 sub health centres to Health and Wellness Centres for provision of comprehensive primary care.

Under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, cashless treatment upto Rs 30000 is available to specified categories of workers in the unorganised sector for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation. Additional cover of Rs 30000 is available for senior citizens.