

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2406
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH MARCH, 2018**

DISEASES DUE TO POVERTY

2406. SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE:

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

- (a) whether as per the World Health Organisation (WHO) poverty is one of the main reasons for spreading of diseases;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the WHO has made any suggestion to check deaths occurring due to poverty;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other corrective measures taken in this regard?

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

(a): According to World Health Organization, poverty is considered an important social determinant of health and an important contributor to ill-health in many contexts. Poverty and ill health are often closely linked.

(b): Various Ministries of Government of India in participation with State Governments are implementing large number of schemes and programmes for poverty alleviation. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing

National Health Mission to address health needs of people, particularly, poor and under privileged by promoting access to quality health services, reducing out of pocket expenses through free drugs and diagnostics initiatives, controlling/eliminating vaccine preventable diseases etc.

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) provides health insurance coverage of Rs. 30,000/- per annum to families of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and 11 other defined categories of Unorganized Workers. Senior Citizens Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS) as top up over existing RSBY scheme has been implemented for senior citizens aged 60 years and above. SCHIS provides enhanced coverage of Rs. 30,000 per senior citizen in the family enrolled under RSBY.

(c) & (d): WHO recommends to move towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and to develop mechanisms for financial protection from health related expenditures and access to quality health services at affordable cost.

(e): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has adopted the National Health Policy 2017 with a mandate to achieving the highest possible level of good health and wellbeing, through a preventive and promotive health care orientation in all developmental policies, and to achieve universal access to good quality health care services without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence.