

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 649
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2018

Free Cochlear Implant Surgeries

649. SHRI SUMAN BALKA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has failed to meet the target of conducting 500 free cochlear implant surgeries under a National scheme for poor hearing-disabled children and if so, the details and the reasons thereof;
- (b) whether the Government plans to increase the target of 500 Implant Surgeries per year to at least 700 and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government plans to revise or relax the criteria of income ceiling for the beneficiaries and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate detailed guidelines to ensure post surgery follow-up and functioning of the implant, speedy repair of device in case of a fault technical or otherwise; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment
(SHRI KRISHAN PAL GURJAR)**

(a): The Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fittings of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) being implemented by the Ministry provides for Cochlear Implant surgery for 500 children per year with hearing impairment, with a ceiling of Rs. 6.00 lakh per unit. The Ministry has approved empanelment of 172 Hospitals (both Government and Private) for Cochlear Implant surgery across the country.

The Programme was launched on a pilot basis in December, 2014. Apart from funding by the Government of India, Corporate Sector is also coming forward to support the Cochlear Implant Program of the Government. So far 1063 (ADIP 876 + CSR 187) Cochlear Implant surgeries have been successfully conducted across the country.

Apart from cochlear implant, funds under ADIP Scheme are utilized for providing aids and assistive devices for all types of disabilities. Therefore, number of cochlear implant surgeries each year depends upon availability of funds under the Scheme.

(b) & (c): The ADIP Scheme was last revised w.e.f. 01.04.2014 and further modified on 01.04.2017. There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

(d) & (e): Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech & Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan) (AYJNISHD), Mumbai is the nodal agency for Cochlear Implant surgery and rehabilitation. AYJNISHD has framed guidelines for post-operative rehabilitation of Cochlear Implant beneficiaries. All-India Coordinator (Post-Cochlear Implant) and respective Zonal Coordinators establish and maintain regular contact with the parents of each beneficiary to ensure that they are enrolled for regular intervention.

Procurement of Cochlear Implants is made by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur, Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry. In the terms and conditions for supply of Cochlear Implants, there is warranty provision for replacement/repair of the Cochlear Implant by the supplier as indicated below:

- a) Cochlear Implant : 10 Year from the date of surgery including surgery cost shall be borne by the supplier in case of failure
- b) External components excluding cables; 03 years from the date of switching on of Cochlear Implant.