

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1943  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST, 2024**

**OVERCHARGED BY PRIVATE HOSPITALS**

**1943 DR. SHASHI THAROOR:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a legislation seeking to regulate the prices of medical services rendered by private healthcare infrastructure in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has any mechanism to monitor/regulate/restrict overcharging by the private hospitals, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the total number of complaints received by the Government against the private hospitals fleecing patients alongwith the actions taken in this regard during the last three years, State/UT-wise and year-wise?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE  
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) & (b) As per constitutional provisions, 'Health' is a State subject. It is the responsibility of respective State Government / Union Territory Administration to take cognizance of cases of excessive amounts being charged by private hospitals while giving treatment and take action to prevent and control such practices.

The Government of India, enacted 'The Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010' (CE Act) and notified 'The Clinical Establishments (Central Government) Rules, 2012' thereunder to provide for registration and regulation of Government as well as private clinical establishments belonging to recognized systems of medicine i.e. Allopathy, Yoga, Naturopathy, Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Siddha and Unani System of medicines, or any other system of medicine as may be recognised by the Central Government (except those of Armed Forces). The State Governments and Union Territories Administration which have adopted the CE Act are primarily responsible for regulating their hospitals including private hospitals as per provisions of the CE Act and Rules thereunder to

ensure the provision of affordable and quality healthcare to patients. As per the CE Act, all the clinical establishments (Government & private) are required to fulfil the conditions of minimum standards of facilities and services and inter-alia, display of rates charged by them at a conspicuous place. The CE 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.

(c) Complaints, as and when received, are forwarded to the concerned State Government / Union Territory Administration, which regulates the hospitals as per the provisions of Acts and Rules applicable in the concerned State/Union Territory. Details of such complaints are not maintained centrally.

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