

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1978
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02ND AUGUST, 2024

AYUSHMAN BHARAT -PMJAY

1978. SHRI IMRAN MASOOD:

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

(a) whether it is true that Ayushman Bharat Cards have not been issued for about 25 crore eligible persons despite completing six and a half years of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether a large number of ineligible persons have been covered in the list under the said scheme without examining Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) data and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government is aware that a large number of poor people are applying for discretionary grants for treatment provided by the Government to save the lives of their family members as they are not able to avail the benefits under the said scheme and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): As on 30.06.2024, more than 34.7 crore Ayushman cards have been created under Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). Beneficiaries under the scheme can avail services by directly walking into any of the empanelled hospitals. However, in order to spread awareness about the scheme and empower scheme beneficiaries, the beneficiaries are issued Ayushman card in a mission mode.

(b): Initially, 10.74 crore beneficiary families under AB-PMJAY were identified using select deprivation and occupational criteria across rural and urban areas respectively from

Socio-economic Caste Census (SECC) of 2011. In January 2022, the beneficiary base was revised to 12.34 crore families constituting the bottom 40% of India's population. Further, flexibility was provided to the States to use other digitized databases of similar socio-economic status for identification of beneficiaries under AB-PMJAY. Accordingly, States/UTs have provided Aadhaar-seeded databases of beneficiary families with similar socio-economic profile for verification under the scheme. This step has ensured that eligible beneficiaries can avail benefits under the scheme.

(c): A total number of 1717 beneficiaries have taken treatment under Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG) amounting to Rs. 33.3 crore using NHA's IT platform for which the year-wise details are as follows:

Financial Year	Total Count of Beneficiaries	Total Claim amount (in Rupees)
2021-22	167	3,67,92,628
2022-23	878	15,74,90,189
2023-24	672	13,93,55,670

Under the Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG), financial assistance of up to Rs. 1.25 lakh is provided to poor patients to cover a part of the expenditure on hospitalization/ treatment in Government Hospitals for life-threatening diseases, in cases where free medical facilities are not available. Only those having annual family income of up to Rs. 1.25 Lakh are eligible for financial assistance under the scheme. Details of funds released and number of patients benefitted during the last three years under HMDG are as under:

Year	Funds released (in crore of Rupees)	Beneficiaries
2021-22	1.16	98
2022-23	0.31	29
2023-24	0.64	55
