

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4176
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2024**

HEALTH COVERAGE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

4176. SHRI MUHAMMED HAMDULLAH SAYEED:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to expand the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY) to include health coverage for senior citizens aged above 70 years regardless of income;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has introduced any mechanism to streamline the issuance of Ayushman Vaya Vandana cards for beneficiaries across the country, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b): On 29.10.2024, Government of India expanded Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to provide free treatment benefits of up to ₹5 lakh per year on a family basis to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status.

(c): Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is an entitlement-based scheme, all the eligible beneficiary families are covered from day one of the implementation of the scheme in the State/UT. The scheme does not require enrolment, however, a beneficiary verification process is undertaken to verify the genuineness of the beneficiary. Ayushman cards are issued to all eligible beneficiaries as part of this process.

The enrolment of all eligible senior citizens aged 70 years and above is application-based, allowing beneficiaries to apply for and obtain their Ayushman Vaya Vandana card. Different modes of application are available for enrolment in the scheme including mobile phone application (Ayushman App) and web portal (beneficiary.nha.gov.in). The feature of self-registration is also available in the above mentioned application. For further enquiries about the Ayushman Vaya Vandana card, beneficiaries can give a missed call to the helpline number 1800-110-770. A dedicated call center (14555) is available 24x7 to provide assistance to the beneficiaries.

Further, beneficiaries may visit any empaneled hospital to avail the benefits under this scheme. Additionally, Pradhan Mantri Arogya Mitras (PMAM) have been deployed at empaneled hospitals, who are responsible for guiding the beneficiaries and providing information related to prompt treatment by interfacing with the treating doctors / caregivers. Uniform kiosks have also been deployed in these hospitals as the first point of contact for beneficiaries, offering awareness, assistance with card creation and support in accessing treatment.
