

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN WELFARE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 818
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07th February, 2025

ECHS EMPANELLED HOSPITALS IN KANNUR

818. SHRI K SUDHAKARAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the issue raised by the Hon'ble MP from Kannur regarding the refusal of Thalassery Cooperative Hospital to renew its Memorandum of Agreement with the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to address this critical issue affecting hundreds of veterans in the region;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ensure the settlement of outstanding payments, amounting to over 1 crore to empanelled hospitals within a stipulated timeframe and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to revise the ECHS/CGHS rates to align them with current market rates; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the measures being taken by the Government to ensure that veterans are not forced to pay out of pocket for medical treatment due to a lack of empanelled hospitals?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI SANJAY SETH)

(a) & (b): The Memorandum of Agreement of Thalassery Cooperative Hospital with the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) has been renewed with effect from 22.01.2025 and will remain valid till 21.01.2027.

(c): Settlement of outstanding payments of empanelled hospitals is a continuous process. Under ECHS, Hospital claims are settled through an online Bills Processing Portal by respective Regional Centres after obtaining approval of the Competent Financial Authority. Each hospital has visibility of the status of their claims on the portal. Bills raised and complete in all respects are settled in a time bound manner.

(d): ECHS follows the CGHS rates of services of Hospitals and accordingly revises its rates whenever the rates in CGHS are revised.

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(e): Adequate number of Health Care Organisations including private hospitals have been empanelled so that the veterans and their dependents can easily avail cashless healthcare services through these empanelled hospitals. The number of Hospitals empanelled in ECHS scheme has shown an increasing trend over the last few years as per the following data:

Health Care Organisations (HCOs)	Number of HCOs Year wise			
	Year – 2021	Year – 2022	Year – 2023	Year – 2024
Hospitals	1487	1609	1736	1858
Eye Centres	326	389	461	512
Dental Clinics	143	162	181	206
Labs and others	93	97	113	121
Total	2049	2257	2491	2697
