

Withdrawal of cashless facilities by insurance companies

2449. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some insurance companies have withdrawn cashless facilities from some private hospitals keeping in view the overcharging by them as compared to medical costs in Government hospitals;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report contained in the Times of India of 11th July, 2010 under the caption "Policy takers are fleeced, made to play higher charges"; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to remedy this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On account of heavy outgo of claims and the health insurance portfolio becoming loss making, effort has been made by the Public Sector Insurance Companies to curtail/reduce the claims outgo. For control over cost of claims, elaborate discussions were held with the medical experts and a standardization of surgical procedures was done. Historical data of past hospitalization in the selected cities was analyzed and hospitals with maximum volume of traffic were identified. Data on cost for procedures too was analyzed. The cost component for each procedure in terms of length of stay, type of intervention, cost and nature of implants etc. were studied. Hospitals were also categorized on the basis of facilities and infrastructure available. Depending upon the categorization of hospitals, the rates were also standardized. The Third Party Administrators (TPAs), thereafter, approached the hospitals with high volume of traffic and offered them to be part of the network at the appropriate rates. The cashless service is thus, now available in a network of 449 hospitals that have agreed to work at given rates for specified procedures in the four cities (Delhi – 163, Mumbai – 121, Bangalore – 81 & Chennai – 84). Simultaneously the settlement of claims on reimbursement basis continues to be available in non-network hospitals. The list of Hospitals in the Network in these cities is available on the websites of TPAs/ Insurance Companies. In the rest of India the earlier process of rendering cashless facility is still continuing.

Shortage of staff in CAG

245. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) auditing system which is one of the best in world and is also auditing international organizations like FAO, WHO and other UN bodies is facing shortfall of about 16000 employees in the organization; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to recruit qualified personnel in the auditing organization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) The office of Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) have informed that against a sanctioned strength of 67,063 (in the Group 'B', 'C' & 'D' cadres), 44,158 persons are in position as on 01.03.2010. Thus, there is a shortfall of 22,905.

(b) The Groups-wise details of 22,905 vacancies are as under:-

Group 'B'	- 2,944
Group 'C'	17,297
Group 'D'	2,664

Recruitments to fill the vacancies are made on the basis of continuous assessment of functional requirements.

Estimate of unaccounted money in the country

2451. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE:

PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any assessment on the extent of unaccounted income/wealth in the country as on date;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether there is any proposal to assess the same now;

(c) whether Government has identified the sectors and areas of generation and circulation of unaccounted money and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of measures taken to strengthen surveillance and enforcement to nab tax evaders; and