

serious concern for them. It was also observed by these Companies that some of the hospitals were charging the patients having health Insurance policies at rates which are quite higher than the reasonable cost of treatment. Due to these high charges, the policyholders were left with smaller amounts of sum assured to be used for any other eventuality during the remaining period of the health policy thereby causing undue hardships to them.

3. The Public Sector General Insurance Companies have not revised/withdrawn the product (health insurance policy) or the facility of cashless treatment. However, the Companies have started rationalization of empanelment of hospitals and standardization of rates and specified procedures followed by the hospitals. This has been implemented w.e.f. 1st July, 2010 in the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Chennai. In these cities a Preferred Provider Network (PPN) has been started by inclusion of names of the hospitals that have agreed to work at given rates for specified procedures. The list of Hospitals in the PPN 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.

4. It may also be noted that the Standard Health Insurance Policy does not provide for any assurance of cashless facility to the insured. However, in cases where a mention of cashless facility has been made it has been mentioned that the claims in respect of cashless facility will be through the agreed list of Network Hospitals/Nursing Homes/Day Care Centers and is subject to pre-admission authorization. The Network Hospitals are decided through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the TPAs with the hospitals and the list is amended from time to time. Presently, 560 hospitals are included in the network in the four cities (Delhi- 174, Mumbai 165, Chennai 118 and Bangalore 103). In selection of the hospitals care has been taken to ensure geographical spread of the hospitals for the convenience of the insured. It has also been decided to expand the PPN network to other 4 centres i.e. Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chandigarh.

5. To minimize inconvenience to the insured, TPAs have been advised that for emergency and trauma cases, cashless facility should be provided not only at hospitals within PPN but at other hospitals also. Apart from the cashless facility under the PPN, the settlement of claims on reimbursement basis continues to be available for all hospitals (including non-network).

Compensation to co-operative banks for late reimbursement by NABARD

†*12. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Co-operative Banks have not charged any interest from farmers after 28th February, 2008 in accordance with declaration of Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Co-operative Banks have been reimbursed late by NABARD and in instalments;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to compensate the loss incurred by the Co-operative Banks; and

(d) if so, by what time?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) The Government of India's Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS), 2008 aimed at de-clogging the lines of credit that were clogged due to the debt burden on the farmers and to entitle these farmers for fresh credit. All agricultural loans disbursed by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Cooperative Banks (including Urban Cooperative Banks) and Local Area Banks (LABs) up to 31st March, 2007, overdue as on 31st December, 2007 and that remained unpaid until 29.02.2008 were covered under the Scheme. In terms of the ADWDRS guidelines, "the lending institutions shall not charge any interest on the eligible amount for any period after 29th February, 2008. However, in case of 'Other Farmers' who defaults in paying their share of the eligible amount on or before 30th June, 2009 and becomes ineligible for OTS relief, the bank may charge interest for the period after 30th June, 2009".

As per the ADWDR Scheme, the lending institutions including Cooperative Credit Institutions are reimbursed the waiver and relief claims by the Government of India on the basis of duly certified and audited claims made through the respective nodal agencies by the lending institutions [Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are the Nodal agencies for the Scheme] in installments. These payments have been made through RBI and NABARD to all lending institutions implementing the Scheme (including the Cooperative Banks) since 2008-09. The Government of India (GoI) has so far released an amount of Rs. 51,340.47 crore to the lending institutions as reimbursement under the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008.

NABARD the nodal agency for Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks has reported that the funds received from GoI in installments were utilized for settling the audited claims under ADWDRS, 2008 to the Cooperative Banks without any delay.

NABARD has reported the position of funds released in respect of Co-operative Banks is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

2008-09	2009-10	As on 17 February 2011			Grand Total	
Debt Waiver	Debt Waiver	Debt Relief	Debt Waiver	Debt Relief	Debt Waiver	Debt Relief
12,753.70	6,095.31	238.98	117.13	2,519.27	18,966.14	2,758.25

Further, due to the staggered schedule drawn up by the Gol for reimbursing the claims of the lending institutions, the Gol is also paying interest on the delayed reimbursement to lending institutions under this Scheme. NABARD has reported that Rs. 217.86 crore has been paid so far to Cooperative Banks as interest on the delayed reimbursement of audited claims under ADWDRS, 2008.

Non-utilization of MGNREGS funds

*13. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by the Central Government for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 to various States;

(b) the amount spent by each State Government during these three years;

(c) the details of non-utilised amount, State-wise; and

(d) the reasons stated by the State Government of Bihar, in particular, and other States in general, for not spending the sanctioned amount?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH) : (a) to (c) Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is demand based. Funds are released by the Central Government to the States/Union Territories based on the labour demand arising at the field level. State/UT-wise funds released, total funds available, funds utilized and funds which remained un-utilised during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given in Statement (See below).

(d) Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provides for a legal guarantee for up to 100 days of wage employment to every rural household in every financial year for doing unskilled manual work on demand. The Act provides that work has to be provided to an applicant within 15 days of the demand failing which unemployment allowance becomes payable. Therefore, funds have to be kept upfront in order to meet any sudden spurt in the labour demand in an area. Funds available with the States/UTs which remain un-utilized in a financial year are non-lapsable and are carried forward to the next financial year to be used for meeting the labour demand in that year.