

to absolutely free and no expense delivery including caesarean section. The initiative stipulates free drugs, diagnostics, blood and diet, besides free transport from home to institution, between facilities in case of a referral and drop back home. Similar entitlements have been put in place for all sick infants accessing public health institutions for treatment.

**Implementation status of two-child norm**

1068. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of implementation of the two-child norm in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether Government has prepared or proposes to prepare any Bill in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating its present status?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) As per National Population Policy (NPP), 2000, the family welfare programme in India is voluntary in nature which enables a couple to adopt the family planning methods, best suited to them according to their choice without any compulsion. The policy envisages promoting small family norm without prescribing for any number of children.

(b) and (c) The Constitution (Seventy-Ninth Amendment Bill, 1992) was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 1992. The Bill seeks to amend the Directive Principles of State Policy to include promotion of population control and the small family norm. It also proposed to include in the Fundamental Duties, a duty to promote and adopt the small family norm. It has been proposed that a person shall be disqualified from being chosen as a Member of either House of Parliament or either House of Legislature of a State if the Member has more than two children. The proposed amendment will, however, have prospective effect and would not apply to any person who has more than two children on the date of commencement of these amendments or within a period of one year of such commencement.

As per the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development which considered the Bill, the Government might consider convening a meeting of the leaders of various political parties in Parliament for further

consultation on the Bill to arrive at a consensus for its smooth passage in the Parliament. In pursuance of the this recommendation, meetings of leaders of various political parties were held on 14th August, 1997 and 13th December, 1999, but no consensus could emerge in favour of the Bill.

In view of the provisions of the NPP, 2000 affirming commitment of the Government towards voluntary and informed choice and consent of citizens while availing of reproductive health care services with target free approach in administering family planning services, launching of NRHM in April, 2005 and the re-affirmation of the then Hon'ble Prime Minister about commitment of the Government for voluntary and informed choice of availing reproductive health care services, where there is no place for incentives and disincentive, a draft Cabinet Note for withdrawal of the Bill was proposed in August, 2007. However, no decision has been taken on the fate of the Bill.

#### **Free health care facilities for the poor**

†1069. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is proposing to provide free hospital facility to the people living below the poverty line (BPL category) through ration cards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the cities and hospitals where this facility would be available at present;
- (d) whether besides Government hospitals private hospitals are also being brought under this ambit;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) by when Government would implement free health facilities for the poor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) to (g) Health is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Government to provide adequate and affordable hospital facility to all the people. As far as three Central Government hospitals in Delhi, namely Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College & associated Hospitals are concerned, treatment is provided free of cost to all those who visit these hospitals irrespective of

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.