

**Reimbursement for CGHS beneficiaries for treatment in  
non-empanelled hospitals**

2344. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court while disposing off Writ Petition (Civil) No. 694 of 2015 has ordered that reimbursement cannot be denied to CGHS beneficiaries even if they received treatment in a hospital not empanelled under the plan;

(b) if so, whether CGHS beneficiaries can take treatment in any hospital not empanelled under CGHS in view of the recent Supreme Court Judgement;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of medical claims pending in CGHS Delhi South Zone, R. K. Puram, Sector-8 Dispensary for more than three years and by which date the said claims will be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (c) Hon'ble Supreme Court of India *vide* its Judgement dated 13th April, 2018 in the WP (Civil) No. 694 of 2015 between Shri Shiva Kant Jha *V/s* UoI has given directions to frame guidelines for settlement of medical claims of pensioners within 1 month and for constitution of a High Powered Committee for settlement of grievances of medical claims of pensioners. Accordingly, Office Memoranda No. Z.15025/38/2018/DIR/CGHS, dated 14.05.2018 and No. Z.15025/38/2018/DIR/CGHS/EHS, dated 22.05.2018 have been issued for fixation of timelines for settlement of medical claims of pensioners and constitution of High Powered Committee respectively.

There is already a provision under CGHS for consideration of medical expenditure incurred for treatment under emergency in non-empanelled hospitals at CGHS rates and to undergo treatment in non-empanelled hospitals at CGHS approved rates after obtaining permission from Competent Authority.

(d) No claim with proper supporting documents is pending for more than three years.

**Imposing ban on tobacco**

†2345. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers consumption of tobacco harmful for life;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to impose a complete ban on the consumption of tobacco in the country; and

(c) if so, by when a ban is likely to be imposed thereon, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): (a) Yes.

(b) No. However, there is ban on smoking in public places except designated smoking areas, ban on sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products to and by persons below the age of eighteen years and within 100 yards of educational institutions and ban on promotion/advertisement of cigarettes and other tobacco products, under Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement, Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA, 2003) and Rules made thereunder. Further, there is ban on manufacture, storage, distribution or sale of food products containing tobacco or nicotine, such as Gutkha, *vide* the Food Safety Regulations issued in 2011 under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Toxicants in cold drinks**

†2346. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of toxicants in the cold drinks of various companies have been found to be more than prescribed limits in the investigation of these beverages;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government against the offending companies;

(c) whether Government has provided this information of toxicants in cold drinks of these companies to the citizens so that they avoid using such beverages; and

(d) the steps taken to save the public from the harms that may accrue to them by the usage of the said beverages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (d) Permissible limits of metal contaminants and insecticide residues for soft drinks and carbonated beverages

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.