

Committee of Experts headed by Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, after extensive consultations with all the stakeholders. These rates cannot be compared with CGHS rates, as CGHS rates vary from state to state and the volumes are much lower. Poor and vulnerable people, in rural areas, who belong to Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) deprivation criteria D1 to D5 and D7 and identified Occupational Category of Urban Areas as per SECC, are entitled to get benefits under the scheme. In addition, the existing beneficiaries of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana who do not figure in the SECC database, are also entitled to avail the benefits under the scheme.

(d) Government of India has approved the launch of AB-NHPM during 2018-19. Under AB-NHPM, all Government hospitals (Community Health Centre and above) are deemed to be empanelled for the Ayushman Bharat – National Health Protection Mission. For empanelment of Private Hospitals, defined criteria and hospital empanelment guidelines have been issued to all the States. The empanelment of the Hospitals is to be done by the respective States and the State Nodal Agencies. The concerned states have started the process of empanelment.

#### **Regulations for use of e-cigarettes**

\*148. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has commissioned a study to understand the health impacts and safety of e-cigarettes or Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government plans to amend the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 (COTPA) to include provisions to regulate the use of e-cigarettes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) The Health Ministry is aware of the ill effects of e-cigarettes or Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) on health. As per the report prepared by WHO (2016), Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) (also known as e-cigarettes) emits nicotine, the addictive component of tobacco products. In addition to dependence, nicotine can have adverse effects on the development of the foetus during pregnancy and may contribute to cardiovascular disease. The WHO report further says that nicotine may function as a “tumour promoter” and seems to be involved in the biology of malignant disease, as well as of neurodegeneration.

Foetal and adolescent nicotine exposure may have long-term consequences for brain development, potentially leading to learning and anxiety disorders.

The report also reveals that there are a few new toxicants specific to ENDS such as glyoxal. However, the levels of toxicants can vary enormously across and within brands and sometimes reach higher levels than in tobacco smoke. This is probably due, among other things, to the increased thermal decomposition of e-liquid ingredients with rising applied temperatures in open system devices. A number of metals-including lead, chromium, and nickel and formaldehyde have been found in the aerosol of some ENDS/ENNDS at concentrations equal to or greater than traditional cigarettes under normal experimental conditions of use.

The WHO Report (2016) was recognized by the Conference of Parties (COP), comprising of 181 Countries, to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), during the Seventh Session of Conference of Parties (COP7) in November 2016, wherein it was decided that Countries may consider applying regulatory measures to prohibit or restrict the manufacture, importation, distribution, presentation, sale and use of ENDS/ENNDS, as appropriate to their national laws and public health objectives. As such, there is ample evidence to state that Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) has harmful effects on health.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, conducted a Roundtable discussion on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) on 4th July, 2014, wherein eminent doctors, specialists, scientists and officers of health and drug department concluded that available scientific evidences indicate that the ENDS [and similar technologies that encourage tobacco use or adversely impact public health] are hazardous for an active as well as passive user and it was decided to constitute sub-groups to consider the issue of banning/regulating ENDS in India. The sub-groups have given their recommendations regarding ban/regulation of ENDS, including amendment of existing legislation, which are under consideration of the Government.

#### **Raising fines for capital market related offences**

\*149. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to raise the monetary fines for capital market related offences;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to make the quantum of fine in such cases commensurate with the amount involved in the offence; and