

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2927
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27th March, 2023

BENEFICIARIES OF ECHS IN THE STATE OF TELANGANA

2927 SHRI B. PARTHASARADHI REDDY:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS);
- (b) the total number of beneficiaries of the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme from Telangana; and
- (c) the total amount reimbursed to the beneficiaries of the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme from Telangana?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a): The Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) was launched in April 2003 to provide quality medical care to the Ex-servicemen (ESM) and their dependents by utilizing the existing medical infrastructure of Armed Forces and private empanelled/ government hospitals across the country. It has 30 Regional Centres (RC) and 433 Polyclinics (PC) pan India including 06 in Nepal and 3158 empanelled medical facilities with a total beneficiary base of approximately 55 Lakhs.

The scheme entitles all ESM drawing pension from Controller of Defence Accounts, including those in receipt of Disability/ Family Pension and their dependents to be eligible for membership. Membership has been made compulsory for all pensioners with effect from 1st April 2003 and is optional for earlier retirees. Over the years, the ECHS membership has been extended to pensioners of Territorial Army (TA), Defence Security Corps (DSC), Uniformed Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Military Nursing Service (MNS), Special Frontier Force (SFF), Nepal Domiciled Gorkha (NDG), Whole time NCC Officers, Eligible Army Postal Service (APS) pensioners, Assam Rifles pensioners, World War (WW) II Veterans, Short Service Commission Officers (SSCOs), Emergency Commission Officers (ECOs) & Pre-Mature Retirees.

The amount of contribution for becoming an ECHS member varies from Rs. 30,000/ for recruit to Rs. 1,20,000/ for Officers. The ESM who have retired prior to 1st January 1996, war widows and war disabled including those disabled in internal security duties, are exempted from payment of ECHS contribution.

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(b): There are a total number of 66,650 registered ECHS beneficiaries in Telangana State.

(c): The total amount reimbursed to the ECHS empaneled hospitals towards cashless treatment to ECHS beneficiaries and reimbursement paid to individual ECHS beneficiaries for treatment taken at non-empaneled hospitals and purchase of not available (NA) medicines in Telangana during last three Financial Years is given below: -

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Amount Reimbursed (In Rs. Crores)
(i)	2020-21	85.34
(ii)	2021-22	67.57
(iii)	2022-23 (upto 15.03.2023)	65.18
	Total	218.09
