

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

श्रीमती फूलो देवी नेतम (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्रीमती रजनी अशोकराव पाटिल (महाराष्ट्र) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को संबद्ध करती हूँ।

Need to protect rights of patients in private hospitals in the country

SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA (Haryana): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. The Indian Constitution guarantees fundamental rights to each and every citizen of India. Article 21 of the Constitution of India guarantees the fundamental right to life & personal liberty. The Constitution of India does not expressly recognize the right to health as a fundamental right under Part-III of the Constitution. However, through judicial interpretation, this has been read into the fundamental right to life & personal liberty under Article 21 and is now considered an inseparable part of the right to life. The right to health is inherent to life with dignity. Articles 39 (e), 41 and 43 of the Directive Principles of State Policy put the obligation on the State in order to ensure the effective realization of the right to health. Despite constitutional provisions of the right to health care, private hospitals deal with citizens in an arbitrary manner and violate their basic rights. If the patient's family is unable to bear the hospital expenses, it has been noticed that in most of the cases, until a patient or his or her relative ends up paying the bill, the patient is not discharged and held in the hospital even if they are unable to do so. For instance, in November, 2020, a woman patient after her delivery was held by a private hospital at Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, for not paying the hospital bill, the patient's family had to approach the police administration in order to get the woman released from the hospital.

In August, 2019, another patient was held by the Apollo Hospital of Delhi for non-payment of bills post-surgery. Not only this, there have also been many cases

of seizing dead bodies. Such an incident was reported last year from Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh, where the doctors of Devanta Hospital took the dead body under their charge because the relatives of the deceased could not pay the Hospital bills in time.

Similar cases are also being registered from other parts of the country where the patients are met with inhuman conditions. Certain cases have been brought to light where patients have been tied to the bed by the hospital administration for non-payment of bills and doctors ignored the patients' health by showing negligence in their treatment. In this regard, the Devesh Singh Chauhan Vs. State in the other cases, the Delhi High Court, in 2016 held that no hospital can hold a patient under any circumstances even if it is a case of non-payment of bills. Along with this, it is also unambiguously mentioned in the charter of patients' rights prepared by the NHRC that the patient has the right to be discharged and a patient can't be held by the authority of the hospital under any circumstances. The report of the Competition Commission of India in 2021 states that the charges of renowned hospitals like Delhi's Fortis, Max, Fortis, Gangaram, St. Stephen, etc., are very high. These hospitals charge thousands of times more...

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI SULATA DEO (Odisha): I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal): I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P (Kerala): I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

Delay in disbursement of funds overdue to West Bengal

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter is known to you as you happened to be our learned and beloved Governor at that point of time. On 18th November, 2021, our hon. Chief Minister met with our hon. Prime Minister and thereafter, on 5th August, 2022. Once again she has given all the documents which has shown that there was a due of Rs. 1,96,800 crores. If we can categorise for the welfare projects, for MGNREGA, it was Rs. 6,561 crores; for Amphan cyclone, it was Rs. 4200 crores; for Covid and other natural calamities, it was more than Rs. 6000; for PM Awas Yojana, it was more than Rs. 9000 crores; for PM Gram Sadak Yojana, the dues were more than Rs. 2000 crores; for mid-day meal, the dues were Rs. 174 crores; for Swachh Bharat Mission, it was Rs. 344 crores; for food subsidy, it was more than Rs. 1200 crores; for the PM Jan Vikas Karyakram Yojana, it was Rs. 44 crores and the ongoing Kelaghai-Kapaleswari flood management, it was Rs. 178 crores. Since then, till now, only a meager amount has been cleared. At the same time, sometimes the funds are getting released at the fag end of the financial year leading to complications as far as the implementation of the project is concerned. As far as PM Awas Yojana is concerned, till date, we were supposed to get the first installment for more than 11,33,000 houses. As far as MGNREGA is concerned, we have seen that there has been a slash down of budgetary allocation by 33 per cent though it is the largest social welfare project. You can easily record the PM's comment regarding MGNREGA, but unfortunately we are yet to get a huge amount