

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 254
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05TH DECEMBER, 2023

ANOMALIES IN AB-PMJAY

254. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as per the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report, there are several anomalies in India's Public Health Assurance Scheme "Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)" due to which crores of rupees were spent on ineligible beneficiaries, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has taken any corrective steps to resolve the issue and taken any punitive action against the officials concerned?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(PROF. S. P. SINGH BAGHEL)

(a) and (b): The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) audit report on Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) was tabled in the Parliament on 8th August 2023 (<https://cag.gov.in/en/audit-report/>). National Health Authority (NHA) has submitted its Action Taken Note (ATN) to C&AG observations. The ATN includes NHA's clarifications regarding audit observations and details of action taken wherever applicable.

AB-PMJAY is implemented through a three-tier structure, with NHA at the apex, primarily responsible for policy making, funding and IT platform. The on-ground implementation of the scheme is overseen by respective State Health Agency (SHA) under State Government. Further, SHAs are assisted by District Implementation Units (DIUs).

The audit report on AB-PMJAY suggested certain improvisations in the scheme implementation with regards to beneficiary verification, hospital empanelment, claims settlement, funds release to States, monitoring and evaluation. Regarding beneficiary verification, a new Beneficiary Identification System (BIS) with improved workflow and validations has been launched. Further, Government of India's decision to use alternative digitized Aadhaar-seeded database to identify beneficiaries has brought ease and certainty in beneficiary verification process. Further, efforts are made to achieve Ayushman card saturation at the earliest through different activities including Ayushman Bhava campaign.

With respect to the grievance management, as on 30th November 2023, 99% of the total registered grievances (4.76 lakh) have been resolved. Constant monitoring and follow-ups are done to ensure timely redressal of the grievances received under the scheme.

With respect to anti-fraud initiatives, NHA has moved from 'Recovery' approach to 'Prevention' approach. This would mean payment of such claims which have been found to be suspicious are withheld till the investigation is completed. As on date, over 900 hospitals have been de-empanelled under the scheme. Claims worth approximately Rs. 113 Crore have been withheld from payment under the scheme. Also concerted efforts are taken to strengthen the establishment at State and District level ensuring an effective implementation of the scheme.
