

number of practitioners runs into the millions. Tangible steps may be taken by the Union Government to designate Saridharma and Sarnadharma as separate religious codes on the specific proposal from the Government of West Bengal. I urge the Union Government to initiate the process to recognize both Saridharam and Sarnadharam as unique religious codes. Thank you.

Demand to release funds for National Health Mission for West Bengal

SHRI PRAKASH CHIK BARAIK (West Bengal): Sir, funds under the National Health Mission have become a point of concern in West Bengal. The State Government has allocated a significant amount of Rs. 1,300 crores in the current fiscal year, while the Centre's contribution remains at Rs. 280 crores. The Union is reportedly yet to release around Rs. 826.72 crores earmarked for constructing Suswasthya Kenras, health and wellness centres, across Bengal.

The Union Government cited non-compliance with specific colour-branding guidelines for health and wellness centres. In West Bengal, Government hospitals provide free tests, treatments and medication, and the Swasthya Sathi Health Insurance Scheme covers 2.5 crore families, benefiting 45 lakh individuals. The number of medical colleges has significantly increased from 10 in 2011 to 33.

With around 11,000 centres benefiting three lakh people daily in Bengal, it is crucial for the Central Government to reassess the position, eliminate colour-branding requirements, and promptly release essential funds for the National Health Mission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member, Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), associated himself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Prakash Chik Baraik.

Concern over employment opportunities in Neyveli Lignite Corporation

SHRI N. CHANDRASEGHARAN (Tamil Nadu): Neyveli Lignite Corporation is a well-known Navratna Enterprise that has made significant contributions to the energy sector, particularly in lignite production and thermal and renewable energy generation. The company operates in Neyveli, Tamil Nadu, and owes its existence to the generous individuals who had provided their land for the development of the mines. Over 25,000 families have contributed through land acquisition, while only 1,827 persons have received employment within NLCIL.

However, recent recruitment practices, such as the selection of graduate engineers, have raised concerns about equitable representation. Only a few